

JPRS-SSA-84-032

13 March 1984

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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13 March 1984

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS 1984/1985 BUDGET

Remarks on Mineral Sector

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

GABORONE, FEBRUARY 13:
The mineral sector Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose by 71 % in real terms in 1982/83 after a 50% fall over the previous two years, Parliament was told this afternoon.

Presenting his 1984/85 budget the Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi told Parliament that development in the mineral sector dominated the economic scene during 1983.

He explained that the rise in the GDP was led by diamond mines whose combined output rose nearly 43% to almost 11 million carats in 1983. Jwaneng contributed more than half of the total output.

"As a result of a significant expansion in output, our diamond sales in 1983 were much higher than in 1982, though we were unable to sell all our production owing to the depressed state of the market," he said.

Mr Mmusi also said that even though a large number of diamonds were put into stock, sales in 1983 were sufficient to bring substantial increases, both in diamond export earnings and in direct government revenues.

He expressed the hope that as 1984 progresses, the expected economic recovery in the industrialised countries would occur and generate a greater and more sustained improvement in the diamond market.

As for copper and nickel at Selebi-Phikwe, Mr Mmusi said that BCL's production of high grade matte in 1983 was the highest ever, at about 48 000 tonnes, compared with 45 680 tonnes in 1982.

Statistics show that BCL's financial problems stem entirely from market weakness: the price of high grade matte has fallen consistently, from P2 076 per tonne in 1980, to P1 706 in 1981, P1 328 in 1982 and P1 247 in 1983.

Last year, BCL produced 20% more matte than in 1980 but the total value of that production was 28% less than in 1980.

He also informed the House that the level of Emergency Funding outstanding, which stood at about P13 million at the end of January 1983, virtually remained unchanged at the end of January this year.

Mr Mmusi reported that all three of the major shareholders in BCL had agreed to provide

additional Emergency Funding if that should be required in 1984. He added however that whether additional funding would be required depended entirely upon the prices of nickel and copper.

On the state of major mineral producers at this time, Mr Mmusi said that their situation was bad but not disastrous. "The way ahead seems difficult but not impossible, and in our expectations for the coming year we can reasonably anticipate some steady improvement but not a total reversal of all recent difficulties," he said.

He was optimistic that despite the present depressed state of the coal market, there was a possibility that major coal export projects could be coming in stream in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

He informed the House that work on the Kgaswe Project, jointly sponsored by Government and Shell Coal, was now well advanced and should be completed before the end of the year.

Describing work on the Sua Pan project, Mr Mmusi said, "We are optimistic that BP's plans to build a soda ash plant at Sua to supply the Southern African Customs Union market will be successful."

Remarks on Cattle Industry

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

GABORONE, FEBRUARY 13: The livestock mortality rate increased from 15.2 per cent in 1982 to 16.3 per cent in 1983, as drought conditions persisted, the Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning said in Parliament today.

He told the House that this reduced the national cattle herd population from 2 979 000 in 1982 to 2 818 000 in 1983.

He however said that in contrast to arable agriculture, the livestock sub-sector performed well in 1983. The Botswana Meat Commission slaughtered a total of 234 000 cattle, a slight drop from the previous year's total of 237 000.

The Maun abattoir went into production early in 1983, creating 148 jobs in the region and ending year with a throughput of 14 800 head.

He also said that notwithstanding the effects of inflation on costs, producer prices were increased during the year by 10 per cent and a further 10 per cent bonus was paid at the end of the year.

The prices for 1984 have been increased by 5% over the 1983 levels, he added.

"Assuming that there will be no adverse effects from drought, the commission forecasts a 1984 throughput of 220 000 cattle at its plant in Lobatse, and 20 000 cattle at its plant in Maun, making a total throughput of 240 000."

disclosed Mr Mmusi.

He also reminded members that the establishment of a second northern abattoir at Francistown was still under active consideration. In addition, he said a feasibility study was conducted last year on the establishment of a large tannery to produce finished BMC hides and discussion concerning its construction and location was underway.

Mr Mmusi added that the Botswana Livestock Development Corporation (BLDC) during 1983 sold 5 986 head of cattle and purchased 6 026 head. Total sales amounted to P1.76 million against purchases of P880 000. The surplus for the year was P300 000.

National Food Strategy Remarks

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 2

[Text]

GABORONE, FEBRUARY 13: As current weather conditions indicate that Botswana is heading for yet another bad crop harvest, the government is to adopt a 'National Food Strategy'.

The Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi said this when he presented the budget proposals to Parliament on Monday.

He explained that the National Food Strategy would provide a frame work within which the stimulation of crop production, the provision of consumer goods to facilitate food processing throughout the country, the reduction of malnutrition, the increased security of access to food supplies at all times, and the preparation of contingency plans to combat the effects of drought, could all be planned and implemented in a consistent manner.

In his review of the agricultural sector, Mr Mmusi mentioned that real output in this sector fell by about two per cent in 1983, although in normal terms the sector showed a modest growth of nine per cent.

Two consecutive years of drought have inflicted serious damage to crop production, he said, and added that the total output of food crops fell from 17 220 tonnes in 1982 to 14 425 tonnes in 1983, which was only 10 percent of total national food grain requirement. These figures compare with 54 285 tonnes produced in 1981.

Mr Mmusi also mentioned that there was a sharp fall in the cash crop output whose harvest in 1983 represented only 23 per cent of total planted area.

"The sharp decline in agricultural output severely squeezed rural income and

resulted in a depletion of local food resources," he said.

The response of the international community to the circumstances and Botswana's own prompt action, he said, enabled the containment of the worst effects of the drought.

Measures taken included provision of stock feed and vaccines, free seed and subsidy of draught power hire charges, borehole drilling, supplementary feeding and labour-based relief projects.

According to Mr Mmusi, some P13 million, almost all of which was domestic funds, was allocated to drought relief mainly in the form of food aid, with contributions amounting to some 26 000 tonnes of foodstuffs in 1983, and already 37 000 tonnes have been pledged for 1984.

A total of 200 000 primary school children and 302 000 in

vulnerable group categories fed through the clinics benefited from the food aid.

On ALDEP, Mr Mmusi mentioned that government would now pay 85 per cent of the cost of the ALDEP package and small farmers would contribute the remaining 15 per cent. He expressed the hope that the new arrangement offered better incentives to farmers and would go a long way in boosting agricultural output.

Turning to the Botswana Agricultural Marketing Board, Mr Mmusi stated that it was currently operating through 26 marketing outlets, spread throughout the country, with a storage capacity of 55 000 tonnes.

He said that this year the BAMB offered producers price levels up to 36 per cent more than in some neighbouring countries. He added that domestic output of

scheduled produce amounted to only 2 968 tonnes, with maize, mainly from the Barolong Farms, accounting for 85 per cent of purchases.

Mr Mmusi also said that the Board's activities in 1984/85 would again be mainly to ensure availability of adequate supplies of scheduled produce for the consumer market.

On another point, Mr Mmusi told the House that government's efforts to assist farmers in projects for self-sufficiency in small stock, horticultural products and poultry have started bearing fruit.

"The year 1983 saw a breakthrough in production of poultry and poultry products, through the establishment of a slaughter house, egg-classification centre, and chicken rearing farms," he said.

Remarks on Employment, Unemployment

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 14 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt]

GABORONE, FEBRUARY 13: The need to intensify efforts in promoting productive business undertakings in the rural and informal sectors, was emphasised by the Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi.

Speaking when he presented the 1984/85 Budget proposals in Parliament here today, Mr Mmusi warned that formal sector employment provides opportunities for only 20 per cent of the population aged 15 or over.

With a population growth of 3.3 per cent per year, the number of Batswana entering the labour force each year still significantly exceeds the number of jobs created, he said.

"The National Manpower Development Planning Second Report, published by my ministry last December, indicates that the net increase in the labour force is likely to be around 20 000 people per year for the rest of the decade.

"Even with the high job growth rates of the last two years, we will have an additional 8 000 people each year without formal sector employment," he warned.

"Further, with no change in current training plans for the rest of the decade we will continue to face the "major mismatch of skills" alluded to last year; there will be too few jobs for people with low levels of educational attainment and training and too few workers qualified for jobs requiring higher education and training."

As a result, he said, the country would continue to have high levels of under-employment and unemployment amongst Batswana, while large numbers of expatriates would continue to be imported to provide the missing skilled manpower.

Mr MMusi who was presenting the Domestic Outlook,

emphasised that "whilst every aspect of this problem is being examined and will be considered in detail in our preparation for NDP VI, we are already spending a substantial proportion of our budget on the education sector, and there are no short-term solutions to these imbalances."

He also pointed out that the economy's requirements for people with technical and vocational training are far higher than the current supply, and will increase over the decade.

"Even at the primary level, where by 1991 we expect a surplus of 110 000 people who have completed only full primary education, we project a small shortfall of people with full primary plus some additional Training," he told Parliament.

"At the secondary level this is even more serious: an excess supply is anticipated of 29 000

JC-completers, which is 68 per cent of all people holding JC and nothing else, whilst the deficit of secondary plus-training is projected to be 11 000 in the same year." Parliament also heard.

The message arising from these projections, he said, was that whilst the current expansion of junior secondary education was justifiable from the point of view of equality of educational opportunities, it will do little, in itself, to alleviate the mismatch of skills.

"Efforts must therefore be devoted to the expansion of vocational and technical training opportunities, and the resources channelled into these areas may have to be diverted from other, lower priority areas," added the Vice President.

Remarks on Taxes

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 14 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

GABORONE, FEBRUARY 14: Married persons are to gain from lowered income tax rates; tax administration is to be tightened and civil servants are to receive a 10 per cent salary increase from April this year.

These were some of the highlights that emerged from the budget proposals for the financial year 1984/85, presented to Parliament by the Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr Peter Mmusi yesterday afternoon.

When giving details of the tax cuts, Mr Mmusi referred to the legislation that he proposed to introduce in the House. One of the bills would allow the lowering of the rates slightly, by widening the rate bands at higher levels of income and by increasing personal allowances.

He gave the following examples:

A married person whose tax rate was five per cent and who paid P50 for the tax year 1983/84 will now pay an annual tax of P30 - a reduction of 40 per cent.

A married person whose highest tax rate was 10 per cent and who paid tax of P250 will now pay tax of P210 - a reduction of 16 per cent.

A married person whose highest tax rate was 27,5 per cent and who paid tax of P2 050 will now pay P1 750 - a reduction of P300, or 14,5 per cent.

"I have also increased the insurance and the educational allowances to P1 200 and P900 respectively," added Mr Mmusi. Mr Mmusi, however, regretted that there had not been time to include in the forthcoming amendment bill, representations from married women regarding their status under the Income Tax Act and from working women with children.

But he promised to present in due course to Parliament, amendments in which a married woman could choose to be assessed in her own name, separately from the husband or if the couple agreed, for the wife to be the taxpayer instead of the husband.

"I must point out that this measure is solely designed to improve the status of women, and that there will be no reduction in tax payable by the family unit," said Mr Mmusi.

He added that he would also investigate the possibility of treating day nursery schools as establishment for the purpose of granting educational allowances so as to help working women with care for their young children.

Mr Mmusi went on to disclose that he would be abolishing sales tax on diesel and reducing tax on alcoholic beverages by 20 per cent.

"At the same time I propose to extend the ambit of Sales Tax to include cider and other brands of alcoholic beverages. The reductions, particularly that on fuel will help to reduce inflation," he pointed out.

Earlier, however, the Vice President warned that tax evasion in the business sector was becoming a problem, with the growth and increased sophistication of the country's economy.

An investigation and intelligence branch has now been established within the Department of Taxes and it was expected to become fully operational during the course of this year, to tighten up tax administration, he said.

In addition, the powers of the Commissioner of Taxes were to be strengthened. Steps were also being taken to strengthen the Department of Taxes, with help being given by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), especially in the field of training of local staff at Inspector level, to make the Training and Localisation Policy truly effective.

Mr Mmusi explained that much of the legislation of the Income Tax (amendment) bill would be concerned with transactions between private companies and their shareholders.

"One of the measures I shall propose is to exempt bonus shares from income tax. I trust that these measures will encourage companies to capitalise profits for expansion," he said. BOPA

CSO: 3400/682

MASIRE ANNOUNCES FIRST STEP IN TAKEOVER OF RAILWAY SYSTEM

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Gaborone, February 13--The President, Dr Q.K.J. Masire has said that train operations between Mahalapye and Mafikeng will be localised in April this year.

Dr Masire said the localisation process will be the first step towards Botswana's railway system take-over from the National Railways of Zimbabwe by January 1987.

The President disclosed this at his first kgotia address in Gaborone South near the Methodist Church in Extension 10 over the weekend.

He said the move, accepted as a government policy in 1974, under the leadership of the late President Sir Seretse Khama, was now at an advanced stage.

The President added that in its final stage there would be 1 400 local staff with a small nucleus of 40 expatriate staff.

Dr Masire told his audience that as the railways were both capital and labour-intensive, steps had been taken to invest capital on assets and manpower.

He disclosed that over the past years, a lot of money had been spent on the construction of new stations, goods and parcel offices, purchase of 12 diesel locomotives and 60 coal and water wagons, track maintenance machines and other equipment.

He revealed that with Chinese loan of P17 million, the government was relaying 120 km railway tracks south of Gaborone.

This itself, said the President, will necessitate the construction of a concrete sleeper plant costing about P1 million and another one for rail fittings.

On manpower training, Dr Masire said that the Railway Training Centre in Francistown opened in 1983 with five instructors, has started training additional drivers, station

masters, foremen, shunters and commercial clerks.

He disclosed that at present there are 35 trained locomotive drivers who are already working with the National Railways of Zimbabwe; 71 artisans and technicians of whom 47 are undergoing further training in Bulawayo.

He said additional classes of training railway accountants, stores and administration clerks will soon be opened adding that "by the end of the year we would have 140 trained staff."

The President further disclosed that recently a batch of 12 locomotive drivers had been sent for training in Malawi to be followed by another batch in the next four months.

He said at present two key posts in the management and five posts in the supervisory levels have been localised during the last four months.

President Masire in his conclusion said that the government was processing the purchase of a new signalling and telecommunications equipment for the railways at a cost of P4 million with help from donors.

A workshop for repairs and overhaul of locomotives, and wagons costing about P5 million would be completed by 1987.

CSO: 3400/682

MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND BATSWANA REGISTER TO EMIGRATE TO NAMIBIA

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Jowitt Mbongwe]

[Text]

GABORONE, February 11: More than 1 000 members of the Baherero and Babanderu communities have so far registered to emigrate to Namibia, according to the Maun District Officer Mr Plus Rankebekwa.

He said in a telephone interview today, that the deadline for registration which the government had given to people who wanted to go to Namibia, was February 9 and that it had expired.

Mr Rankebekwa said officials were also, still engaged in putting together the information so far compiled in the registration of the two communities.

He said after completion they would send the information to the Ministry of Local Government and Lands for final arrangement of movement of the people registered.

The Ministry would then consult with the South African Government which is administering Namibia.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and Lands Mr A.

Masallia said that after receiving the registration information supplied by those who indicated that they wanted to go to Namibia, they would send the information to the South African authorities.

The information includes, the number of those wanting to emigrate to Namibia, their belongings including livestock and the number of children attending school.

Mr Masallia said thereafter, the registered Baherero and Babanderu would be allowed to go, taking with them all their belongings.

The issue of the migration of the Baherero and Babanderu communities has been very controversial recently.

In October last year the two communities, which have populations of well over 68 000, were told by the Minister of Local Government and Lands Mr E. Kgabo together with the Minister of Agriculture Mr W. Meswele who visited them that the South African Government had agreed to accept some Batswana of

Babanderu and Baherero origin.

It was then that those who wanted to go were requested to register with the District Commissioner's office so that the ministries of Local Government and Lands and Agriculture would work together to ease their immigration.

The two ministers told the communities that the Government did not force any one neither to go nor to stay. "We know that you are Batswana like any other Motswana who has fundamental and natural human rights in this country" they said.

They also urged those who wanted to remain to work hand in hand with the Government of Botswana towards the development of the country and forget about tribalism.

It is understood from history that the ancestors of the Baherero and Babanderu communities crossed and settled in the Batawana area from Namibia many many years ago fleeing the war which was taking place in that country. **BOPA**

OPENING OF NATA-KAZUNGULA ROAD 'HISTORICAL'

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 17 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

THE opening of the Nata-Kazungula Road was indeed a historical event. Yet the significance of this road lies far beyond the mere existence of 300 kilometres of tarred road.

The Nata-Kazungula highway has both economic and political implications from which it derives its significance.

Economically, it is needless to say that a good road network is a pre-requisite infrastructure for economic development. The Nata-Kazungula Road cuts through a potentially fertile agricultural land with sufficient rain fall. The area itself has plenty of surface and groundwater. Fertile land and abundant water are the most important factors of production in agriculture.

Now what remains is that people should use their hands and work the soil, irrigate it and sow plants that will produce fruits, vegetables, cereals and raw materials for consumption and export

respectively. Furthermore, the government is ready to provide an almost total grant for anyone with ideas and the will to work and produce goods along the Nata-Kazungula area. In a regional context, the Nata-Kazungula Road is a dream come true in terms of the objectives of the SADCC.

It will facilitate and promote contacts between the peoples of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It will also help strengthen the existing good relations among these countries; something which Botswana would never lose sight of.

It may be appropriate, however, to point out that good things are sometimes abused. We would want to see the police, Immigration and Customs officials of the three countries take measures to counteract criminal elements that may want to use the road for trafficking of contraband, drugs and stolen vehicles.

CSO: 3400/682

MINISTER SOUTH AFRICA EMPLOYING BATSWANA MINERS

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

MOLEPOLOLE, FEBRUARY 8:
The Minister of Public Service and Information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe has dismissed reports that South Africa was no longer employing Batswana miners because they were very expensive as "false."

Speaking in a kgotla meeting here at the start of a six day tour of his constituency, Minister Kwelagobe added that it was totally untrue that the miners were sold "at P40 to South Africa

He explained that South Africa no longer employed Batswana in large numbers as in the past because some old mines had been closed after raw materials had been exhausted.

Another contributing factor, he said, was that after the mines increased salaries, South Africans who had been refusing

to work in the mines, flocked there in large numbers.

As a result, South Africa began to employ more of its local people and less expatriates from such countries as Botswana, Lesotho and others.

A representative of TEBA, the Employment Bureau of Africa, who had accompanied the Minister explained to people that a sum of P10 and not P40 was paid by the mine which employed the worker after signing an agreement with the Government of Botswana, but not deducted from the worker's salary.

Minister Kwelagobe further noted that even though South Africa no longer employ Batswana like in the past, between 18 000 and 20 000 Batswana were still employed every year.

CSO: 3400/682

PEOPLE OF DROUGHT STRICKEN BOTETI AREA FACING CRISIS

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 13 Feb 84 p 5

[Article by Mmoniemang Madikwe]

[Text]

BOTETI, FEBRUARY 7: The people of the Boteti area which has received no rain since the beginning of the rainy season are going through a difficult time.

Their cattle are dying in alarming rates; health standards are reportedly deteriorating and development projects stagnating.

At Mopipi, Kedia, Xhomo, Toromoja and Tsienyane, hundreds of cattle and wildebeest carcasses were everywhere in the grazing areas, last week.

One farmer - Mr C.D. Batswana who is also the headman of Mopipi said he had already lost about 200 cattle.

He said the Boteti area was facing a crisis.

"Some people cannot even afford to pay the P2.50 for sports and the money used to pay cooks at school," he said.

Mr Batswana who was

interviewed in the presence of a village elder Mr Galekabewe Bahumeng also complained that stocktheft cases had reached alarming high levels.

In their view, both men said this was a result of the famine, since most of the people stole cattle for meat.

However their views were not shared by other people interviewed in other villages.

The headman of Toromoja Mr N. Nguvauva said that the stockthieves took advantage of the drought to enrich themselves because they knew that the owners would think that their cattle were dead when they did not see them.

Some projects have also been laid off because of the drought.

In Xhomo, the Village Development Committee (VDC) is reported to have split up as some members have left the

village to look for jobs and have abandoned their agricultural activities.

In Toromoja where residents were building hostels for government employees, the huts have not been completed because of shortages of grass for thatching.

The same plight is faced by the residents of Tsienyane who were engaged in building a teachers quarters.

At the rural settlement of Kedia, the Principal of the local primary school Mr G.M. Dodzi said his pupils were not attending school regularly especially since their food supplies had depleted.

The staff nurse at Mopipi Clinic Ms Molly Mojalemotho said that the current drought was causing a lot of health problems in the area.

CSO: 3400/682

RESULTS OF CABINET MEETING OF 3 FEBRUARY 1984

Brazzaville MWETI in French 4 Feb 84 p 3

[Excerpt] The cabinet met on Friday 3 February 1984 from 0900 to 1200 hours in the People's Palace, chaired by Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee, president of the republic, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In connection with the report of the minister of agriculture and livestock, the cabinet examined, in preparation for the 1984-1985 campaign for collection and sale of livestock products by the Congolese Food Crop Marketing Board (OCV), the various problems connected with marketing the farmers' agricultural production. It is recalled that the Central Committee, concerned by the importance of this issue, had made a series of guiding recommendations to the government for handling of this issue on the basis of the farmers' fundamental interests.

The cabinet first decided on a new approach for collection and marketing with the main purpose of speeding up the campaign and reducing costs. This approach emphasizes decentralization of collection activities, with increased responsibility for the local authorities (political commissioners). The cabinet then concentrated on the problem of improving the costs and methods of financing. It endorsed the principle of separating for accounting purposes the activities relating to the public service aspect of the function that for a transition period will be subsidized by the government, from the collection and sale activities that should achieve financial balance in order to obtain bank loans. In the long run, the objective is to have surpluses from marketing finance the public service operations.

The cabinet also dealt with the problem of food product prices, first production and then consumption. It decided to increase producer prices as follows: maize, 68 francs; shell peanuts, 123 francs; hulled peanuts, 163 francs; paddy, 77 francs; potatoes category I, 170 francs; potatoes category II, 132 francs; and beans, 220 francs, all prices per kilogram.

As for the OCV sale prices, the cabinet first decided to make the sale price of each product uniform throughout the country. Some increase in prices was also agreed on with details to be announced later by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, taking into account the guidelines arrived at by the cabinet, whose main concern is to avoid having sharp increases lead to increases also in other basic commodities.

In connection with this important issue, which has direct repercussions on the daily life of the popular masses, the comrade president stressed the absolute necessity to concentrate on this problem of basic commodity prices. It is imperative to pay special attention to the industrial and commercial profit margins. It is unacceptable, he said, that Congolese products transported by the OCV to Brazzaville should sometimes triple or quadruple the OCV sale price between the department depots and the supermarkets or markets. He concluded: Those responsible for this speculation must be opposed with determination, because here what must be protected above all is the interest of the popular masses.

On the same subject, the cabinet decided to continue financing the program to aid farm production (seed distribution, plant protection, and fertilizer testing...).

Continuing its agenda, the cabinet approved the following documents:

--A draft bill approving the loan contract, financing and execution plan for the program to provide water to the rural centers of the People's Republic of the Congo [PRC].

--A draft decree approving a loan contract for 5 million marks between the Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau and the PRC, and the subsequent agreement between the PRC and the ATC [expansion unknown].

--A draft decree approving the loan agreement of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation for the PRC to finance implementation studies for agricultural projects.

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CSO: 3419/434

NATIONAL CREDIT COUNCIL CONSIDERS REPORT ON ECONOMY IN 1982

Brazzaville MWETI in French 31 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The National Credit Council met on 25 January 1984 in the building of the Bank of Central African States in Brazzaville under the chairmanship of Comrade Ossetoumba Lekoundzou, member of the Political Bureau in charge of planning and the economy, and minister of finance.

After the minister had read a note reviewing the role and responsibilities of the National Credit Council, the council turned to examination of the activities report for 1982 describing and analyzing the country's economic, financial and monetary situation during the year.

The report noted that the People's Republic of the Congo had implemented the first annual stage of its first 5-year plan 1982-1986 in a mediocre international economic context. The year had been marked by a leveling off in oil activities.

The growth of crude oil extraction clearly slowed down, changing from an average annual increase of 24 percent in 1980 and 1981 to 11 percent in 1982. There was a related change in oil export earnings, with only a 28-percent increase compared to 81 percent in 1981 and 96 percent in 1980. Despite this leveling off, the growth of economic increase for the national economy productive units as a whole, the Gross Domestic Product, has been 31 percent in present francs and 12 percent in volume.

The trend in the other basic indicators of the economy, particularly national production, intermediate consumption, exports, and final consumption, has been like the GDP, an increase of about 30 percent.

The characteristic feature of the period has been primarily the very strong growth in investments (388 billion CFA francs in 1982, 240 billion in 1981, and 118.5 billion in 1980) accompanied by imports (services and equipment).

This overall gap between national saving (disposable income minus final consumption) and investment is evidenced in an increased national indebtedness abroad and a large balance of payments deficit.

Indeed, the making of these investments, particularly the state investments (about 180 billion), could not have been done without effort to find and arrange foreign loans and without increased resort to means of internal

financing, facilitated by the results of the 1981 budget and the strong increase in ordinary revenues in 1982.

The deficit total (27 billion in 1982, compared to the surplus of 12 billion in 1981) shows that the economy has not been able to compensate by means of additional foreign sources of financing for its overall financing needs.

Reflecting the trend we have described in various sectors of the economy, the monetary situation has been characterized during this period by a significant drop in foreign assets. The result has been a moderation of the growth of internal credit, particularly credit in the economy, despite the strong increase from year to year in the credit in the state monetary system. Thus, the money supply has developed at what is certainly a sustained rate, but only half the rate in 1981.

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CSO: 3419/434

DETAILS OF POINTE-NOIRE CITY PLANNING MASTER PLAN**Problems of Communications, Facilities**

Brazzaville MWETI in French 2 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Patrick Okamba: "A Halt to Uncontrolled Urbanization"]

[Excerpt] The economic capital has since Friday officially had a city master plan. This document, approved by the expanded Political Bureau of the government, sets the major guidelines for the development and organization of Pointe-Noire city up to the year 2000, and puts an end to the present anarchic development of the city. The plan was presented to the Pointe-Noire municipal authorities by Maj Benoit Moundele Ngolo, member of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), and minister of public works, construction, town planning and housing. Addressing the many people attending the master plan presentation ceremony in the "Club 7" theater, he told the local officials that the task is now to apply the master plan directives in a determined and bold way.

It should be noted that the document presented is not an "operational" plan but a town planning policy directive. It is to be implemented in various stages between now and the year 2000. The plan establishes broad principles concerning preferential expansion areas; location of urban centers and major installations; and the pattern of major traffic facilities. An initial city master plan that will be in effect until 1986 prescribes in a precise way the soil use practices during this period and the scheduling for various needed equipment. It will be followed by one or several additional plans to progressively develop the urban framework envisaged by the master outline.

Bad Site

The visitor arriving for the first time in Pointe-Noire is immediately struck by the beauty of the buildings, the many mail boxes, and the good traffic streets in the European quarter. However, he is soon disappointed by the unusual way in which most road users interpret the highway code, both in the European quarter and the "native" quarter. In the latter, he will be even more disappointed when he finds out that it is almost impossible, with or without a taxi, to find the home of someone he knows.

Pointe-Noire is a fine port site, but it remains a bad city site. In fact, the city is built on a coastal plain divided in all directions by rivers bordered by flood areas and swamps, the main ones being Tchikobo lagoon in

the center of town and Tchinouka lagoon toward A. Sice hospital. The city site thus consists of a series of small plateaus isolated by large unhealthy areas. This creates serious health and communications problems.

Located as it is on a very unfavorable site from a town planning point of view, the city is very broken up. The economic activity and the European residences are clustered near the port. The "native" quarter is separated from the former by a large swampy expanse and connected by a river crossing that makes it possible to control the whole city at the access point.

It is thus vital to progressively develop the facilities that are now lacking in many districts and to concentrate residents around these facilities to enable the largest number to benefit from them. Given the many difficulties, financial and those related to the financial situation, the agreed priorities can be summed up in three types of activities:

--The balancing of public facilities by developing focal points at Mpaka and Loandjili in the outlying districts. However, there is a risk that the problems may hinder implementation of these projects. There is the problem of the official lot allocations in these focal points. The case of Mpaka is an outstanding example. It is an area with more than 100,000 residents. There are only individual houses. No health facilities and no schools. All this with the benediction of the local authorities.

--Breaking the isolation of outlying districts by building roads across the natural barriers and cleaning up the center city areas that are still unhealthy and threatened by anarchic use.

--Definitely preserving the port and industrial areas of activity vital to the national economy.

Maj Benoit Moundele Ngolo affirmed that these major objectives must definitely be achieved, otherwise the current problems of unemployment, delinquency, prostitution, unhealthiness and lack of facilities in these districts will continue to grow, seriously threatening the future and the urban stability of Pointe-Noire.

Favorable Economic Situation

Brazzaville MWETI in French 3 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] After stressing the master plan in our last issue, today, in the light of the plan's guidelines, we are going to discuss Pointe-Noire and its activities. In doing so we will refer to the various reports made by Messrs Demba, Maurice Buesso and Jean Marie Testa, all members of the Housing Research and Technical Studies Center (CRETH), at the presentation of the city master plan by Comrade Benoit Moundele Ngolo, minister of public works, construction, town planning and housing.

The population of our economic capital was about 210,000 in 1980. The master plan predicts a population of 510,000 in the year 2000, that is, 265,000 in

1986, 340,000 in 1991, and 510,000 in 2000, or an average growth rate of 4.5 percent.

Employment

Pointe-Noire has all the characteristics of an industrial city. With the development of oil operations, electrification, the establishment soon of the paper pulp factory, and the development of the construction sector, the economic situation in Pointe-Noire is very favorable. The plan is using the growth rate of 4.5 percent a year also for predicted employment, that is, the same figure as the demographic growth rate. The prediction for number of employees increases from 32,000 in 1979 to 45,000 in 1986, and 85,000 in the year 2000, or an average of 16,000 new wage-earners per year. Pointe-Noire's economic development will progressively produce some of these jobs, distributed throughout the city.

Establishment of Additional Activity Zones

To provide more assurance in regard to employment, it is necessary to establish especially managed activity zones and to strengthen the existing ones. These include the industrial port zone, the paper pulp factory, and Tietekolo zone where the oil refineries are to be expanded. According to a study carried out under CRETH sponsorship in 1981, a 120-hectare area will be set aside for heavy industries.

However, in addition to these zones, the master plan provides for development of zones for establishment of small and medium-size industries of many kinds, including the following zones:

--Airport road industrial zone: expansion of an existing zone in a central location, an area of 45 hectares. There will be 60 to 105 lots varying from 2,500 to 5,000 square meters for small industries, with preference for scientific and processing technique industries.

--Fair industrial zone: a zone with attractive location and an area of 32 hectares, to be divided into 55 to 80 lots.

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CSO: 3419/434

MMM DEBATE ON NATIONAL UNITY, CULTURAL DIVERSITY REPORTED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 6 Feb 84 p 4

[Article: "At the 'Milan' Theater in La Louise: Large Attendance at First MMM Debate-Forum Yesterday; Three Speakers Address Theme of 'National Unity and Cultural Diversity"]

[Text] A debate-forum was organized by the MMM [Mauritian Militant Movement] yesterday [5 February] at the Milan Theater in Quatre-Bornes before a full house. The theme of the debate-forum was "National Unity and Cultural Diversity." This forum, the first political meeting held by the MMM since the beginning of the year, also attracted many party members from the Plaines-Wilhelms area. Many municipal councilors and members of the National Assembly, who had not been able to find seats in the theater, had to listen to the speeches carried on loudspeakers to the area in front of the building. The three speakers were: Mrs Vidula Nababsingh, Bashir Khodabux, and Paul Berenger. Also appearing on the stage with them were the members of the Political Bureau of the MMM.

Paul Berenger, the leader of the MMM, who was the last to speak to those attending the forum, summarized the arguments previously presented by the first two speakers, while emphasizing the timeliness of the event. He said that for the MMM it was time to resume its political activities by choosing a theme of deep interest to the party: national unity. Berenger said that this was the very essence, the reason for the existence of the MMM. He recalled that when the party was established in 1969, Mauritians of different ethnic groups had been killing each other only 1 year previously, while 4 years later [1973] other racial clashes required the intervention of British troops. Therefore, from its very foundation the MMM had sought to act as a bulwark against this kind of occurrence.

He said: "MMM members should be proud of the results, because while the MMM has been advocating a Mauritian identity for our people [Mauricianisme], others on the political scene have tried to do everything to divide the people. Not only has the MMM fought for national unity but it has also fought for the consolidation of the cultural diversity of the country." In this connection he quoted extracts from the MMM government program of 1976 and from an interview which appeared in a weekly publication in September 1974. He said: "The MMM is also proud of having made it possible for Mauritians to have a better knowledge of the history of the country and of its great moments and of having instilled in party members certain ideas that have permitted them to analyze Mauritian society more effectively, despite its complexity."

Berenger then spoke of the major events in the history of the country, when men like Plevitz, Manilall Doctor, the Bissoondoyal brothers, Pandit Sahadeo, Doctor Cure, and Emmanuel Anquetil succeeded in creating national unity and bringing together Mauritians of different origins without regard to their different origins. These major events continued until the 1950's and the beginning of the 1960's. The MMM also contributed to these great moments in the history of the country with the 60-0 vote which created national unity.

The MMM leader discussed the complexity of Mauritian society. He said: "This complexity is such that we must pay particular attention to ensure that no one's feelings are hurt. A basic anti-communal outlook is not often found in such a society, because it is dangerous to accuse those who speak of preserving their cultural heritage of being communalists. It is also dangerous to consider communalism as something only to be found among other groups and not in your own community. We must stop pointing a finger at other communities, because it is this kind of attitude which promotes communalism."

Berenger then "criticized those who have consciously falsified" facts by accusing the MMM of constituting a danger to a certain segment of the people and of having sought to wipe out other cultures by advocating "a single people in a single nation" and by introducing the use of the Creole language on radio and television. Berenger said: "In terms of national unity the MMM has no lessons to learn from anyone else, and still less from those who, beginning with their first year in power as a government have damaged national unity by isolating one section of the people on the sidelines and by exploiting holidays for political ends."

In the view of the leader of the opposition [Berenger]: "The Alliance Government is not a symbol of national unity because it is the MMM which illustrates national diversity. The Alliance," Berenger continued, "is only a group of communal organizations. We still remember the certificate of representation of one community from which one of the Alliance partners comes. So when the prime minister said that he was leaving the cities to the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party], his statement had a communal meaning. The policy of 'protection of the mountains' is only additional proof of this."

The opposition leader concluded by saying that the MMM would be vigilant regarding the role of MBC/TV [Mauritian Broadcasting Corporation/TV] concerning the different cultures presented to Mauritius, the choice of languages in the CPE [Cambridge Preparatory Examination], and the use and subsequent manipulation of the results of the last census, because there is a correct balance to be maintained. In seeking to consolidate national unity there is a risk of hurting some sensitivities and damaging cultural diversity. In the same way, by trying too hard to consolidate such diversity, there is a risk of not being able to achieve the kind of national unity which is so necessary for the country.

The first speaker at the debate-forum was Bashir Khodabux, who focused his speech on national unity as a function of the history of the country, going back to the period of slavery. Khodabux recalled the different stages of the struggle carried on by those who had neither the economic nor the political power to assert their rights and have them respected. This struggle was carried on at the cost of the tears and the blood of the workers. It required the intervention of certain persons such as Gandhi, who (during the time he lived in Mauritius) had noted the

injustices to which the contract laborers were subjected, De Plevitz, and Manilal to make the great majority of Mauritians aware of their condition as an exploited people. Their joining together took place without taking into account their respective origins.

The descendants of the Africans and the Indians joined together to confront the sugar-planting oligarchy. There were commissions of inquiry. Then came the moment when Pandit Sahadeo, Cure, and Anquetil took the lead and raised high the torch for the liberation of the workers. National unity was then a reality. There were strikes at the sugar mills, and those who felt that the union of the exploited workers was a threat to them, organized themselves. With the help of the authorities of the time, bloody acts of repression followed. Khodabux said: "This repression did not have much effect on the ideals of the workers. This struggle, begun with the "Liberal Action" group of Eugene Laurent, was to continue until the 1950's, under Rozemont and Seeneevassen. Then came communalism. National unity suffered a serious blow, because certain people sought to make use of politics to influence cultural life. Culture must be able to spread freely." However, what has happened since that time has only accentuated even further the divisions among the people.

Mrs Vidula Nababsingh, speaking of cultural diversity, said that many party members felt humiliated and deeply wounded by the results of the last elections, results which were obtained by creating antagonism. Speaking to the young people, Mrs Nababsingh warned them against the negative impact of modernization and industrialization on the evolution of culture.

After having suffered from the culture imposed by the colonizing countries, the inhabitants of the former colonies are today in search of their cultural identity. Mrs Nababsingh mentioned in this connection the example of the Indians in the United States. She said: "We have to avoid classifying Mauritians by community, because that will engender fanaticism over the long term." She continued by denouncing "the hypocrisy of the government which organizes cultural activities to prove that it advocates harmony between the different sections of the population, but which, by its actions, is encouraging fanaticism."

She continued: "So that the development of a Mauritian identity may become a reality, we need a great deal of dexterity and modesty. We have to abandon any superiority complex toward those who belong to groups different from our own. Some people think that they are more Mauritian than others, because their ancestors arrived in Mauritius before the others did or because they are the largest group. The young people think that they are more liberated than others. Now, those are traps which we must avoid at all costs because we have all been subjected to the colonialist mentality to a certain point and we are still struggling to regain our cultural unity."

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CSO: 3419/440

RELATED REPORTS ON SUGAR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

New Cane Released by MSIRI

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 26 Jan 84 p 1

[Article: "M 3035/66 Variety Can Yield More Than 800 Tons of Sugar Per Acre"]

[Excerpt] A new variety of sugar cane intended for cultivation in the tropical and elevated regions of the island was released during the meeting of the Cane Release Committee held on Friday.

The M 3035/66 variety has certain advantages for planters in these regions, one of them being that its sugar content increases toward the end of the harvest period. This cane must not be cut at the beginning of the cutting season, but rather in the middle or at the end of the harvest.

When questioned by L'EXPRESS on this particular aspect, Drs Claude Ricaud and Regis Julien, director and chief of the Breeding Division at the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute [MSIRI], stated that with this new variety and in view of the fact that the tropical regions have two other good varieties (the M 574/62 variety which is harvested at the beginning or in the middle of the season and the M 657/66 variety which should be harvested in the middle or at the end of the season), the tropical and elevated regions will now see a marked improvement in their position.

A hybrid of a Mauritian variety and a variety from Pingtun (Southeast Asia) produced by the MSIRI in 1966, the M 3035/66 variety produces a tall, straight, large-diameter cane with large leaves.

Export Tax

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] For each ton of sugar exported during the 1983/84 sugar harvest, the government will pocket an average of 728.21 rupees in the form of export taxes on sugar. The average export tax per ton of sugar for the two previous harvests was 593.76 rupees in 1982/83 and 638.89 rupees in 1981/82.

In fact, according to official preliminary estimates, the government will receive 414.5 million rupees on 569,204 tons of sugar exports in 1983|84.

Despite a reduction in this surcharge proposed in the MMM|PSM [Mauritian Militant Movement|Mauritian Socialist Party] administration's single budget, the export tax on sugar had exceeded the level of 400 million rupees for the first time in 1982|83, bringing in 409.2 million rupees.

The tax on sugar exports, affecting producers of more than 75 tons, is payable in three instalments at the end of the months of January, February and March.

Note that exemption from the export tax previously applied to a maximum of 20 tons. The maximum was increased to 75 tons in the amendment restructuring the export tax surcharge on sugar. This amendment was presented by the minister of finance on 10 June 1983. The chart below presents a comparison of the export taxes levied in 1982|83 and 1983|84 on the various categories of planters:

<u>Exporter Categories</u>	<u>Export Tax Payable per Ton</u>	
	<u>1982 83</u>	<u>1983 84 (estimated)</u>
0 to 20 tons	-	-
20 to 75 tons	300.82 rupees	-
75 to 1,000 tons	389.28 rupees	454.55 rupees
1,000 to 3,000 tons	500.50 rupees	584.40 rupees
Over 3,000 tons	750.75 rupees	876.60 rupees

Moreover, according to well-informed sources at government headquarters, with the new 10 June 1983 amendment to the export tax table and following division of some properties, the government (more specifically the Ministry of Finance) now finds itself faced with 150 requests for exemption from the export tax on sugar. These requests are originating from this new category of sugar producers.

The Sugar Industry: What Crisis?

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 3 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] In the last issue of WEEK-END, the Mauritius Sugar Producers' Association [MSPA] published a masterful discussion of the grave situation prevailing in the sugar industry at present--the causes which have brought about this state of affairs and steps to be taken to assure the recovery and survival of this industry--written by its president Mr Herve Koenig.

In a clear, precise style, marked with good sense and moderation, Mr Koenig very objectively reviews--with supporting figures--the problems which the sugar industry has had to face over these last few years and warns against the danger soon of watching it collapse--taking the whole country with it--in the absence of prompt and decisive action to find a solution.

The major points which emerge from this discussion are the following:

(a) Despite the tremendous difficulties which have been confronting it for years, the Mauritian sugar industry remains "one of the best organized and most efficient in the world . . . it is still profitable . . . not only in terms of assuring its own survival and development, but also in terms of maintaining its role as the driving force behind the country's economic activity," as the recent study done by the Economist Intelligence Unit of London, a firm with an international reputation which works for the World Bank among others, confirms.

The organization's flattering terms--reproduced in Mr Koenig's article--in reference to the role of the MSPA in its operational methods of management and economic and technical development of the sugar industry should be noted.

(b) "The sugar industry is not . . . in a crisis situation due to its own activities. The only real crisis which it must face and which makes it look like the defendant in the eyes of public opinion is a crisis which is artificially provoked by the siphoning off of an exorbitant share of its gross revenues by the tax to make up the government budget deficit . . ." (The export tax.)

"For the year 1982, . . . net receipts for the sugar companies, including Rose-Belle, amounted to 271 million rupees after expenses. . . What completely changes this situation for the sugar companies is the government's appropriation of 357 million rupees of the revenues of these companies in the form of export taxes. This appropriation taken right off the top even before the employees' salaries are guaranteed changes a profitable situation into a deficit situation. This is the only real problem for the sugar companies and no matter how thick a smoke screen one wants to use to hide this fact, it is persistent and it shows up in all the analyses done to date on the financial situation of the sugar companies . . ."

The figures cited by Mr Koenig for three sugar companies show the sums--calculated in tens of millions of rupees--appropriated by the government from the revenues produced by these companies for the years 1980, 1981 and 1982--resulting in a 3.25 percent dividend distributed by one of these companies in 1980; a 1 percent dividend distributed by another in 1981--and no other dividends distributed by these companies for the abovementioned years.

(c) While the government is continuously burdening and penalizing the sugar establishments, the country's major source of wealth, due to the losses incurred, the sugar companies are not able to provide for proper maintenance and modernization of their plants--while the class known as the "planters" either totally or partially escapes the export tax of which we are speaking. Furthermore, these planters are receiving ". . . one of the largest shares of sugar in the world . . ."

As the president of the MSPA asks then, quite logically, : "The sugar industry: What crisis?"

However, the fact remains that today this industry is on the verge of bankruptcy. Bankruptcy resulting not from poor management, incompetent directors or whatever other causes you like, but attributable, whether one likes it or not, only to a tax created by the government in order to balance its own budget.

Aside from this reason for the tax, there is another reason mentioned by the government for not abolishing it: the political question!

Of what importance, as Mr Koenig shows, are the greater interests of the country--and the tragic consequences extending to multiple sectors of our economy--of the sugar industry irretrievably sinking a little deeper every day.

And what are the remedies recommended by the government? They are only an investigative commission, examination of the Avramovic report and the report of its auditors--kept painstakingly secret until now--and, it seems, the right-thinking public will learn with astonishment, a "Great Public Debate on the sugar industry and its future!" All of which implies, once again, the subordination of any solution likely to save the sugar industry and the country to a subtle form of demagoguery.

Whatever the case may be, it is undeniable that a severe malaise--or rather an extreme anguish--is gripping the entire country in the face of the current economic situation which is probably the most serious in our entire history.

Perhaps the minister of agriculture--who most specifically has the heavy responsibility of finding a solution for the sugar industry "crisis"--would like to further enlighten public opinion--and possibly allay its fears to some extent--by responding officially and in the newspapers to the various points raised by Mr Koenig--while also indicating the steps he has in mind to save the sugar industry--and the country.

This would provide a constructive exchange of opinions on the subject--a worthwhile replacement for any "Great Public Debate."

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CSO: 3419/443

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MULTI-PARTY CONFERENCE

No Official Status

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 84 p 30

[Article in column: "Gwen Lister Looks at the Political Scene"]

[Text]

Several political parties have been approached with a view to join the 'multi party conference', but thusfar there seem to have been no takers. Certainly at the opening of the second session last week, no 'new' parties were present, apart from an enhanced and strengthened National Party delegation.

The efforts to interest parties outside the 'multi party conference' for the moment, therefore, appear to have been unsuccessful.

Several parties were approached informally, but cautiously, regarding participation in the 'multi party conference' or MPC as it has become known, but in most cases, these parties are sceptical, if not openly suspicious, about the 'multi party conference' for they are unsure about the direction in which it is headed.

The caution and scepticism with which other political parties view the MPC, was aptly illustrated in the New Year's message of Chief Munjuku II of the Mbanderu Council, when he said "...and as we all know, the MPC, which we must still consider for a while, is not yet able to speak on behalf of all Namibians, because not all political parties are represented there....".

His attitude is reminiscent of other political parties who are in principle in favour of discussions concerning the future of the country and the implementation of Resolution 435 in particular, but slightly averse to the MPC in view of the many rumours that it is headed towards an interim government.

No Clear-Cut Stand

Were the MPC to come out with a strongly worded statement saying: 'we do not intend to form an interim government,' then their attempts at recruiting the participation of other political groups would probably be a lot more successful. The nearest they came to such a denial however, was at a press conference in November last year when Mr Moses Katjiuongua, President of SWANU said in reply to a question that an interim government had not been discussed. He did not however, deny that it would be discussed.

In the same way, the MPC has taken no clear cut stand on the question of Security Council Resolution 435. They acknowledge that Resolution 435 is the only concrete independence plan in existence, but have not stated whether they are for or against implementation thereof.

There are three points, namely the question of Resolution 435, and the Cuban question on which nor only the other political parties, but the country as a whole, wants clarity.

A party such as the Namibia independence Party for example, which is in favour of the implementation of Resolution 435, could hardly participate in an exercise which may result in an interim government, without suffering a substantial loss of credibility. And the leaders of the 'multi-party conference' should take these factors into consideration. For already their own people, in many cases, are rebelling against liberties taken by their leaders as far as a mandate is concerned.

THEMSELVES UNSURE

For not only do the other political parties, and people of the country, not know where the MPC is headed, but they themselves are unsure of where their discussions are going to take them. The aims of the conference have not been sufficiently clarified, or have not been clarified at all, as far as most people are concerned.

And it does not solve matters when the MPC calls upon the people of the country to 'support

their initiative'. For what are they actually supporting if indeed they do decide to support it?

If the MPC remains a 'talking shop' as it appears to be, then why should they need the support of the people? They have every right to talk as much as they want to, but then they cannot, on these grounds, claim either to represent the people of the country (for they do not) nor call on the support of the people for their 'discussions'.

Their lack of purpose or aim is quite obviously a result of the various political ideologies represented in the MPC, which forces them to compromise, and ultimately to cloud the issue.

The latest statement by the 'multi-party conference' is in itself an indication of how vague their objectives either, whether on purpose or by default. In a long winded statement, they basically request to be included in any ceasefire talks concerning the war on the northern border of Namibia.

Stand on Linkage

They've got as far as to agree they want to be a party to ceasefire talks, but have the MPC yet taken a stand on the question of a Cuban presence in Angola with the Namibia settlement?

Three of the leaders present at the conference, namely Mr Justus Garoeb of the Damara Council, Mr Moses Katjiuongua of SWANU and Mr Andreas Shipanga of the SWAPO Democrats, are on record that the Cuban presence in Angola has nothing to do with an independence settlement in Namibia and in the past, they have also intimated that a ceasefire concerns the two warring parties, namely SWAPO and South Africa.

Do these three leaders stand by their views? And if not, let them say so.

Rather than demanding to be a party to ceasefire talks, why don't those three leaders at least put on record their views on linkage? Or have they now adopted the South African view--namely that no settlement is possible without a Cuban withdrawal from Angola. This is yet another issue which should be clarified, particularly if they claim the support of the people, for then they should tell the people what they are supporting.

Everyone is aware that both the National Party and the DTA are in agreement with the South African position regarding linkage, but as far as I know, the three leaders mentioned are on record opposing such linkage.

How then can they request to be a party to ceasefire talks, when they don't even agree among themselves on the manner in which a ceasefire has to be achieved.

HAS NO MANDATE

In addition it remains a fact that this 'talking shop', this 'multi party conference' has absolutely no mandate from either the supporters of the respective parties within the MPC, or the country as a whole, to negotiate a settlement on their behalf. The 'multi party conference' has no official status in this country; it is a private initiative, and cannot claim otherwise.

Certainly, the participants in the 'multi party conference' will have to do much more than they have done to date, to demand, or make any claim to the support of the people of this country. They will have to make their views on certain matters abundantly clear:

does the conference support the implementation of Resolution 435, or are they looking for alternatives?; does the conference envisage an interim government as its goal?; and does the conference associate itself with the South African views on linkage?

These are the questions the people are asking, and these are questions which will have to be answered before they can possibly expect any measure of support from the people.

Several parties present in the MPC, were the ones critical of the former National Assembly -who said that the National Assembly could not claim to represent the people of this country. They are now falling into their own trap and making the same claim.

Several parties there do not even represent their own party supporters, let alone the people of Namibia, and they are taking liberties with the mandates, if any, given to them by their supporters.

Presence at Ceasefire Talks

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 84 p 30

[Text]

WINDHOEK: The 'multi-party conference' this week came out with a call to be included in negotiations concerning a ceasefire, adding that "no viable solution to the problems of the country could be achieved without the participation of the 'Multi Party Conference'".

They said in a statement earlier this week that the MPC "took note of the fact that recent attempts by South Africa and Angola to bring peace to South West Africa have once again ended up in complete failure. This reinforces the conviction of the MPC that it must play a role and that no viable solution can be achieved without its participation. The MPC accordingly accepts the responsibility and offers its contribution in the spirit of peaceful cooperation".

The statement went to say that the war in the north had already claimed hundreds of lives of innocent civilians. More than half the people of this country did not lead a normal life, their social and productive activities being severely curtailed and in some cases, such as evening classes, Church services, or taking seriously ill persons to hospitals, had ceased altogether.

Furthermore, the statement added, the dangers of the protracted armed conflict were real. "In the end, apart from death, detention, maimings and the destruction of property, this armed conflict makes the countries in which they are waged, ungovernable. Chaos and anarchy becomes the order of the day even when the hostilities are finally and formally terminated."

The MPC statement then cited examples, saying that since 1961 Angola and its people had never known peace. "It is a known fact that it is easy to start a war, but it is extremely difficult to stop it." Therefore, they added, the quest to bring an end to the war situation in this country could and should not be left only to those waging it. Everyone, the statement continued, had a duty to attempt to bring peace, not only to the people directly in the war's

ceasefire, but also for short and long term peace and stability.

The MPC, they added, was a "National effort" committed to the urgency of bringing about peace, national reconciliation, independence and economic prosperity. "It is our conviction that these objectives can neither be achieved by the condition of continued political subjugation nor a pious belief in the omnipotence of the military struggle."

"The MPC holds the view that the existing political and constitutional order is unsatisfactory and against the national interest of our people as a whole. We will therefore strive to find ways and means to devise a political and constitutional system acceptable to our people as a whole and within the framework of the constitutional principles agreed to by the RSA and the Contact Group, and to contribute towards the removal of the obstacles in the way of a generally acceptable settlement and internationally recognised independence".

In conclusion, the statement called upon the people of South West Africa to support the 'multi party conference' which they described as a "sincere effort to find the durable solutions to the problems of this country".

CSO: 3400/694

PLANS TO SCRAP ETHNIC GOVERNMENTS REPORTEDLY WELCOMED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 7 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by Tony Weaver]

[Text]

THE DAY the axe finally falls and a stroke of the administrative pen does away with Namibia's 10 ethnic governments the territory will breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Except, of course, the 44 629 employees of those governments. Considering that the territory — with a total population of just over one-million — only has an economically active population of 198 000, that's a lot of civil servants who could be on the streets looking for jobs. But indications this week are that a shell of the 10 ethnic governments will be retained, probably as 10 committees to advise, on cultural and other "own affairs", the Central Government — which falls under the Administrator General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and which is touted to take over from the ethnic governments. The writing has been on the wall for the ethnic governments for some time now.

Established in 1980 by the then Administrator General, and present Minister of Sport and National Education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the ethnic authorities were South Africa's apartheid in disguise for SWA.

Apartheid in Namibia was officially abolished with the coming into being of the ethnic governments, but effectively, the ethnic authorities merely meant that apartheid was being waged by different means.

Libraries, hospitals, pensions, municipal affairs, all fell under separate racial authorities ... so although no-one could complain they were still being segregated or discriminated against officially, in practice apartheid was tightened.

But it is not because of the entrenched racial discrimination of AG 8 (the official proclamation which brought the ethnic governments to life) that that 1980 decree has been derided, scorned and virulently attacked by as diverse a group of people as

a Supreme Court judge, a maverick millionaire, the territory's Director of Economic Affairs and the Master Builders' association.

It is because the cumbersome and top-heavy system has naturally lent itself to corruption, mismanagement, abuse of public money and just downright economic disaster.

And herein lay the ethnic governments' seeds of their own destruction.

The Thirion Commission of Inquiry into abuse and maladministration in the ethnic authorities found staggering levels of incompetence and corruption in at least four of the 10 governments (not all the commissions' reports have been made public so far).

Executive officials, and in some cases the "prime ministers" of the different authorities, were found to have been unashamedly using public monies and public properties for their own enrichment.

For instance, the head of the Ovambo Legislative Assembly, Mr Peter Kalangula, nominally "prime minister" of almost half Namibia's people, was found to have used R32 996 of state money and building materials for his own use. And he had three of his private tractors repaired by the state at a cost of

about R20 000. Corruption was found to be rife in most of the areas probed.

But more worrying was the almost total lack of any regard for formal administrative procedures.

Records were chaotic, salaries were not paid, entire payrolls simply disappeared and, in some cases, normal office procedure was as alien as the concept of Namibian independence from South Africa.

The business of government in Namibia swallowed up just on 75% of the 1983 budget, and increasingly mutterings came from diverse quarters that money was being squandered on maintaining a corrupt and thoroughly unpopular system.

One of the most glaring and oft-quoted examples of how the ethnic governments are squandering money, not only through abuse but through the ten-fold overlapping of facilities, is that of the whites-only State Hospital in Keetmanshoop, with approximately 250 beds.

The hospital, one of the most modern in Namibia, stands outside the town in modern splendour, and cost a reputed R6-million to build.

It has a daily bed occupancy average of eight. But coming to grips with abolishing the ethnic authorities may present heavy problems for South

Africa. The parties involved in running the authorities, especially the powerful, right-wing National Party, are bound to protest heavily against the summary destruction of their only real political power base. So it seems probable that, to save face on both sides, a semblance of power will be left with the ethnic authorities but the essential functions in areas such as health and education will be removed from their clutches.

And who will replace them? Dr Van Niekerk has made it clear he does not enjoy the role of a dictator thrust upon him by having to run the Central Government.

So the fate of the Central Government, which is tipped to take over from the ethnic authorities, will probably be decided by the six-member Multi-Party Conference presently conferring in the capital.

They have made it clear that one of their options remains the formation of an interim government, albeit a reluctant option, and this could well become the replacement for the 10 ethnic governments.

Whatever creation of South Africa replaces the 10 'bantustan' governments, the collective sigh of relief will echo across Namibia from the Cunene in the north to the Orange River in the south.

READER CRITICIZES 'REPUBLIKEIN' PARTY, MUDGE

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 21 Jan 84 p 36

[Letter by Herman Itembu]

[Text]

The *Republikein* writes about itself in its newspaper as if it is the best political party in South West Africa, and tells the people what it does for South West, but it does nothing.

What you do is try to make the other political parties (your opponents) look foolish about things that are not true. I would like to warn you to leave SWAPO and Gwen Lister alone please. I am sure Gwen Lister has written the truth about Katjiuongua.

I was head boy of my school, it was a big school with about 850 students. Every day students were presented with copies of *Die Republikein*. What is the function of *Die Republikein*? Is it there to influence us about Dirk

Mudge, DTA, *Republikein*, and other puppets who protect Katjiuongua?

Leave Gwen Lister. If the *Republikein*'s running dogs were really worried about the country, why did they not protect Gwen Lister when she came from the conference in Paris, and her documents were confiscated.

These documents consist of more truth about the conference and SWAPO. You (*Republikein*) are afraid that the good things about SWAPO are heard by the people.

'Kwaad kat' and 'So se Moses' were jokes or *kinderspeletjies* used in the *Republikein* of January 13. South West Africa and its people are not a joke. You are busy making jokes and it is a sign that you are not interested in the country's people.

SWAPO and SWANU have the same idea and that is to destroy apartheid in South West Africa. Mr Katjiuongua is one of our black leaders who has been influenced, and he has moved in a direction where the members of the Party do not want to go.

Republikein you can defend Katjiuongua, but he will be fired as President. We will have a congress. And you can stay with Katjiuongua, Dirk. We do not trust him any more as a leader of the blacks.

CSO: 3400/694

SWANU LEADER REPORTEDLY RESPONDS TO ALLEGATIONS

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 21 Jan 84 p 36

[Letter to editor by Gerson Veii]

[Text]

It is a pity that I was drawn into this polemic about Swanu. It is indeed a tragedy that the person who could have averted the whole dilemma for the Party, Mr Katjiuongua, is the one who is throwing allegations left and right.

Up to now I failed to understand why my name was brought into this problem. I am not going into detail about everything said about me, because I don't want to bring myself to that level of politicking.

To kerneels of the republikein (he does not even deserve capital letters) I would like to tell him that I am not a coward to write

letters under other people's names. I would say what I want to say under my own name and face the consequences as a MAN. So kerneels, never underestimate the intelligence of comrade Tjikuzu and other comrades.

Swanu comrades in Botswana and elsewhere have the right to criticise their party and that is what they did and they even went further and listed their grievances and demands. Mr Katjiuongua could have replied to those critics and saved the Party all this embarrassment. Insults and allegations will always

have a counter-reaction, and that will create conflict within the Party, something we don't need in Swanu now.

We in Swanu should look into these serious allegations and try and solve the problems and save the Party. If Swanu is prepared to go an extra mile to untie others, why don't we go extra miles to unite ourselves?

In my opinion the much publicised MPC (Multi party Conference) is not the solution to Swanu's problems. It is perhaps one of the causes of the problems.

Swanu members want to see their party playing the role of a true revolutionary movement in Namibia and elsewhere. They want to see and hear a strong statement (and action) condemning in the strongest possible terms the military occupation of Namibia by the South African apartheid forces and the rejection and condemning of the invasion of Angola by the Botha regime.

South Africa has told us so many times with ACTION that they don't intend leaving Namibia. So why waste time with conferences and meetings if SA is inviting us to fight them for our freedom?

Forward to the day when Swanu will face the real enemy (South Africa) as a united movement with only one aim--to liberate Namibia.

CSO: 3400/694

ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL DISCUSSES PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 28 Jan 84 pp 15, 16

[Interview with Dr Willie van Niekerk, Administrator General, by NNA Director Bill Hulme in Swakopmund; date not given]

[Text]

This on record interview by NNA Director Bill Hulme, was taped recently at the Summer Residence of the Administrator General in Swakopmund. Appearing on these pages, is the complete text from which nothing significant has been deleted.

Question by Bill Hulme: What is your perspective on the system of government you are heading?

Answer by the Administrator General, His Excellency Dr Willie van Niekerk: We can talk the whole morning about that. You see, I am not changing the system of government. I am working in a system of government.

Changes in the system of government will have to be made by the politicians. I am not going to change the system of government.

We can talk about government structure, if that is what you mean...

QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATION

It is important that we still carry on improving the quality of administration, because that can always be improved. By getting more qualified people. We would very much like to see the administration improve in all respects. That is one of our priorities.

Q: At this stage how does the decision-making process work?

A: Well, it is interesting. You have the policy advisory committees to tackle certain problems and then they submit it to me. And, as you know, they have got a fair number of private sector people too.

Then we analyse it to see whether it is practical and feasible. So in other words, we diagnose the problem, and sometimes refer it back to the policy advisory committees to have a look at it again.

FINAL DECISION

Q: Eventually when it comes to the final decision, do you have a kind of a "kitchen cabinet", or do you personally decide?

A: No. I always decide by getting as much expertise in on the problem, listening to them, and then I make a decision. I like to hear all kinds of angles and arguments on the particular problem, but one ultimately has to decide.

It is like in any business, one person has to make the decision. We use various methods to incorporate expertise into the decision-making process, but one person ultimately has to make the decision.

Q: So there is no inner circle of advisors where you do a head-count before you decide?

A: No, it varies with every problem. I call in knowledgeable people regarding the problem I have.

EFFECTIVELY ENOUGH

Q: At this stage, after a year as AG, are you satisfied that the government's decision making process is working effectively enough?

A: It is never as efficient as one would like it to be. One always has to improve on it. By necessity I would have loved to have it better improved during the year. But, one works against certain constraints.

What we still need in key positions, is people with administrative experience, who can also train others again. I could have worked faster if I had better staff in various administrative positions, but that takes time.

NOT WORSE

To answer your question, one is never satisfied. One always has to improve and one always wants it to improve faster than you can. Government is a machine that works slowly. But, yes, we did improve. We didn't go backwards. I don't think that it is worse than when I came here. It is better in many respects.

Q: What are your goals, your criteria for effective government during this particular phase?

GOALS

A: Well ... goals.

First of all, is to get a national strategy, the guidelines for national strategy. I think that's needed and that's what the policy advisory committees really worked on this year. That is what is going to be presented at this socio-economic conference that is coming up.

One has to have guidelines on national strategy at all levels, for health, for economics, for finance, for every facet one has to have strategy guidelines. And then, amongst those, you have to analyse which are the priorities within your financial constraints ... what is the most cost-effective situation.

You see, there tourism is an important one, because it brings in foreign money ... you know that they spend a lot of money here. The last estimate was ... tourists from South Africa, I think spent about forty-five million, which is a lot. These are the things that one looks at. Then of course just plain, good administration ... where the public feels that they get their money's worth when they go to the hospital or wherever.

AUTHORITARIAN

Q: As an official of a foreign country, working here in a system of government that's essentially authoritarian, are you in a position to formulate a national strategy for Namibians?

A: By incorporating people from the private sector, yes. It's not myself, you know I am only making the process ... I stimulate the process, so that the people of South West Africa formulates it. It is not me that formulates it, they formulate it. But I have to initiate the process.

That's what I'm doing. I don't formulate it, they do it. As a matter of fact, you know full well that I said when I came here, that the basis of my whole approach is "South West for the Southwesters".

Q: But the people on your advisory committee are mostly officials, quasi-officials, or military personnel?

OLD ARGUMENT

A: That's an old argument. If you really analyse it, there's also some new appointments.

Something which I think the Press missed, is the report of the Auditor General ... You see, I thought about it. How should I handle this, because in Parliament, or in any democracy, they have a chosen committee which looks at it.

So, what I did was to get five people out of the policy advisory committees, five totally private sector people, not one of your pseudos ... so they were the committee, together with myself as chairman and Mr Greebe. And they had the Auditor General's report, they scrutinised it. They had it for three weeks.

Then every head of a department had to sit down with that committee and they could ask anything. And they really asked very good questions ... why was this over-expenditure necessary, or why was that amount over-estimated. They really went for them.

Afterwards, they came back to me, these people and they said that it was to them a tremendous experience of how the finances of the government work.

MORE THAN EVER

I think during this year I incorporated the private sector more into government than any year previously in this country. I am proud of it.

The committee who is going to organise this conference (the upcoming socio-economic conference), fifty percent of them again comes from the private sector. I want to involve the private sector.

Q: Are you satisfied that you have done enough to run an open government so that the public can actually see that their country is being run in a clean and effective way?

NOTHING TO HIDE

A: That's a good question. I have to refer back to this Auditor General report. I think it is very important, because what is going to happen now, is that it will be printed, and you have a verbatim record, and that is going to be made public. Everybody will be able to see what questions were asked and what the answers were by the heads of departments.

There is nothing to hide, this is what I want to bring over. I think that answers that question ... And also all the other commissions' reports that were on my table, were made public.

Q: Shouldn't the sessions of the advisory committees be open to the public, so that people will at least know what they are talking about and what recommendations they are making to you?

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

A: You know, that's an interesting question. It has pros and cons, because sometimes they do deal with classified information, which makes it difficult that they have an open session. The information that they need to make decisions, are sometimes classified by necessity. That is one of the problems that one has in any government, anywhere in the world.

Q: But surely that happens only in a minority of cases?

A: You know not even in parliament ... in parliament no committee sessions is in public.

Q: But these committees (the policy advisory committees) do fulfill a function rather different from the committee sessions in parliament?

A: Well, I have regular meetings with the chairman of these committees and I can put it to them, see whether it is feasible.

PUBLIC DEBATE

Q: Wouldn't it be useful to stimulate the greater public debate on the issues government is dealing with ... for instance also by publishing the recommendations of your policy advisory committees before you actually make a final decisions?

A: That's why we have the socio-economic conference, because a lot of it is then made public ... Especially for the private sector, press, everyone to join in, discuss it, but then it's structurised.

It's a structurised presentation of the work they have done, open to the public and debates can then follow, to be of great importance. So, in principle I am for it.

Q: The socio-economic conference, none the less, is only an annual event, where government is an ongoing process ...

NOTHING TO HIDE

A: Yes, but I doubt whether the press would be interested in the day-to-day workings of the committees. Honestly, you are driving at that we have something to hide, or that we are hiding something. I'm telling you that there is nothing to hide. I only want it in a structurised way.

As a matter of fact, again, I think what we did with the Auditor General's report ... that is a tremendous way of dealing with an unique situation. I could just have got the people into my office to say these are the questions that the Auditor General wants you to answer.

I wanted to involve the private sector, and I wanted people to know that the private sector was involved ... and these people were knowledgeable people, one was an auditor, one was a bank manager. So these were people who knew something about finance. I was very impressed by the questions they asked.

CHAOTIC

I think that's the way to do it, don't you? It's got to be structurised, otherwise it's chaotic.

Q: My next question is whether you consider your government accountable to the Namibian people - shouldn't we explore ways to make the Namibian government publicly accountable to the people?

A: Let me again say, and I've said this so often, I said it my New Year's message, and I've said it over and over again...I want this particular situation that we have to be as short as possible, because there is no way in which a bureaucratic government can be accountable to the public. There is no way.

It is only a democracy that works that way, in other words if the people don't like the government, they can vote them out and vote the new government. Don't you understand...

There's no way in which you can do it. That's why I say, the shorter this period is the better.

Q: Don't you agree that the more open government is, the more accountable it is?

TRYING OUR UTMOST

A: You know what I've done, again, to be as open as possible. There is Mr Pretorius (the AG's media relations officer). That's why he is here, to have an open channel to the press... to show the press that we want to help them. We want to do everything in our power to give them the information they want.

Isn't it true, you must understand it? We are trying our utmost!

Q: There is this difference, when Mr Pretorius comes around to the press - and he does this very effectively - he announces a decision made, but I am asking isn't it possible to stimulate public debate before government decisions are made. In other words, to at least publish your committees' recommendations before decisions are made.

A: Well, as I've said, that is what we are trying to do now with this conference... How would you like to see it done otherwise?

Q: To release the recommendations of the committees before you make a final decision.

A: Yes, but see on the other hand, in much of it I refer back to them where it is not clear on certain aspects, or where they should have a look at it again. So the final product is going to be shown to the public at this conference

and then they can decide what they think about it. But then it's structurised.

I don't want a chaotic situation. It must be a structurised situation, where the private sector is involved as much as possible, in this interim period. You don't want the whole workings of the thing to become chaotic, that wouldn't work.

Q: Are you saying that more openness on your part will lead to chaos?

A: No... not!

EXORBITANTLY EXPENSIVE

As you know full well, there is a lot of things that starts with a paragraph which stimulates another thought and which goes back again to that particular committee. I can't see another way... and I am open to suggestions.

I have two recommendations here now that will have to go back to the committees because there is a lot of things still not in it. Questions arise which must be answered by them.

Q: At the moment you are presiding over a government that's been described as one of "wasteful decentralisation", and by a commission appointed by the Administrator General, as one which tolerates "a third-rate health service which is exorbitantly expensive"... are these things going to change during the coming year?

WASTEFULNESS

A: Oh yes. I have two reports, one of the Health Advisory Committee, which I asked to formulate a cost-effective health service for this country. They are still working on it, but that will also come up at the conference. I have another report on the centralisation of the pharmaceutical services of this country, which will have to be implemented... so there is a lot of work already being done on that.

The wastefulness we'll have to deal with insofar as that we'll have to take a look at the treasury functions of the second tier authorities... insofar as we'll have to try and help them by giving them expertise from central government so that they don't overspend. Because once they've overspent, it's already there and we have to find the money somewhere.

We'll have to try and help them to analyse their budgets so that they do not overspend. They just do not have enough qualified staff to do so. We'll also implement that during the year.

Q: Does that mean that they are going to become accountable to the central government treasury for spending in terms of their budget?

ARE ACCOUNTABLE

A: Already they are accountable, but the problem is once they have overspent they've overspent. Then there is nothing you can do.

Q: Can't you make them accountable in the sense that it becomes impossible to overspend?

A: Then they come back and they say, oh my goodness, we didn't know that we've overspent. Now we have to put in a mechanism so we can help them by periodic inspections of their treasury situation, at that point in time, to see that they don't overspend.

Q: So what you envisage is a technical change dealing with the control of spending on the second tier, not any drastic changes?

DRASTIC CHANGES

: Well, drastic changes have to be made by politicians. Isn't that so?

Q: AG 8 has been signed by the Administrator General and the politicians couldn't change it?

A: I am not talking about history... I am talking about the future.

Q: Isn't that going to remain the position... that on constitutional legislation changes are ultimately your responsibility as AG?

RESPONSIBILITY

A: As the situation stands at present it is ultimately my responsibility. But, as I've said so often, constitutional development is something I've tried to foster since I came here.

Q: The report of the Broeksma Commission has been delivered to the AG in August 1982 and they described the situation at that stage as exorbitantly expensive for a "third-rate health system". Why did it take so long to change that, or don't you agree with their recommendations?

Q: So the obvious next question is what does your priority list look like for 1984?

PRIORITY LIST

Q: So the obvious next question is, what does your priority list look like for 1984?

A: Well, as I've said in my New Year's message, to improve on all levels, agricultural, everything. To formulate guidelines for a national strategy and to get the administration in such a shape that when a democratic government is established, there is at least a good administrative foundation for it to build on... a good, functioning civil service.

Q: At the beginning of 1984, is this country nearer to independence than when you arrived here?

CUBANS

A: That depends on factors that I don't control... like the presence of the Cubans.

Q: During 1983 there were serious allegations about tax evasion on a massive scale in the mining industry. Is there going to be a full-scale investigation?

A: You see what I've always asked for and for what I'm still waiting for, is something in writing about these allegations. That's the first point I want to make.

The second point is that I've asked the Thirion Commission to look at the control over the mining industry and they're busy with that report which I hope to receive shortly. Then I will see whether there is something substantial as far as this is concerned.

ALLEGATIONS

A: Until now I've received nothing in writing from anybody, nothing which I could use as a basis to say that there is really something wrong. We've only be dealing with allegations that's been made. I've often asked and so did Justice Thirion, for something in writing.

This to me is so strange... that I'm receiving nothing in writing. Isn't this also strange to you?

Q: Won't it expose a person to civil litigation when something like that is put in writing?

A: How can that be... in which way? if it's true, then you can't get litigation against you.

Litigation can only happen if you get at somebody personally... and a lot of libellous things have been written about me. Good legal experts have pointed out to me things that appeared in our newspapers that were blatantly libellous.

A PERSON'S CHARACTER

This means that you harm a person's character, or his capabilities, this is litigation. There is no litigation that can have its source in factual evidence ... in facts that you can present. I can't see that anybody with the facts, for instance about this country not getting its share out of taxable income, why he won't give that to me in writing.

I went even further when a certain person told me that he couldn't release the names of his informants. To him I said that's not necessary.

The only thing I wanted him to do, is to give it to me in writing than Person X is making the following allegation, and Person Y another. Even this he wasn't prepared to do. So what am I supposed to do apart from waiting for Justice Thirion's report?

SUSPICION

Q: Aren't you in this case in the position of the policeman whose duty it is to investigate a situation where there is a suspicion that crime has been committed?

A: But, of course!

Administratively I've told the Receiver of Revenue, a long time ago, to again have a look at all sources of revenue and also to tell me whether he has enough staff to handle the situation.

Q: To what conclusion did he come?

A: His conclusion is that there is none (no massive tax evasion). That's why I am waiting for something substantial.

DANGEROUS

You know allegations are dangerous things and there the press must also be more careful. The more experienced journalist should ask people who make allegations to come up with proof of what they are saying.

NAMIBIA

OPERATIONS OF 'DREADED' KOEVOET UNIT REVEALED

Durban THE DAILY NEWS in English 16 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by Bruce Cameron]

[Text] Riding in specially designed armoured-vehicles, moving in classic military ox-horn formation, firing heavy machine guns and lobbing mortar shells, the feared and controversial Koevoet unit squads move in on their Swapo prey in the northern South West Africa bush in such overwhelming force that they now have the reputation of being single-minded killers.

Even a senior police general admits that to its enemies, this security force unit is "cold, calculating, efficient and very ruthless."

For the first time the police lifted the veil on the special police unit with the code-named Koevoet, last week when a small group of political correspondents were shown and told how it functioned.

The only public knowledge of the unit to date has emerged from court cases, one of which resulted in a renegade member being sentenced to death and another to 12 years' imprisonment after a night of murder, rape and armed robbery.

Koevoet, which means crowbar, was formed quietly in 1976 after talks between the army and the police.

It was kept pretty well secret until last year's court cases and even then the information was disjointed and unclear.

The commanding officer of the unit, Brigadier Hans Dreyer, former security police chief in the Natal Inland Division, said he hoped that by revealing the purpose of the unit and how it operated "it will get rid of the idea that we are an extermination squad."

The unit's function was to gather information and to act on it immediately.

And act they most certainly do.

Police officers are coy about success rates, but it is generally accepted that most Swapo deaths and captures are attributed to Koevoet.

The official police line is that Koevoet is a part of the total security force in the operational area and it would be wrong to compare its successes with other units, many of which have more defensive roles.

The unit in its hunt and kill or capture task also works closely with the airforce.

Allegations of torture, improper action and even dressing as Swapo terrorists to gain information from the local population have increased with almost anyone in the territory dressed in a police camouflage uniform being seen as a Koevoet member.

Apart from the two renegades who were convicted in last year's widely publicised trial, only two members of Koevoet have been convicted of assault.

Police officers say that because of the success of the unit the enemy has launched a massive propaganda campaign in an attempt to discredit Koevoet and have it withdrawn from action.

Lieutenant-General Victor Verster said during the tour that if Koevoet behaved in the way it was alleged by its enemies it would not be successful.

"Why do you think Koevoet has had so much success?

"Because we have the complete co-operation of the local population who give us hot information on which Koevoet acts immediately."

One of the more controversial aspects of its operations is that its members are paid "kopgeld"--virtually bounty money.

The police say this does not provide motivation and is only paid to special constables who are under the control of properly qualified white policemen.

The money is the same as that paid to any member of the public who gives information that leads to the arrest or death of an insurgent.

The unit comprises men drawn from a number of sources and even includes former Swapo terrorists who have been "turned" and are not guilty of an act of murder.

Others are drawn from refugees from Angola and all its black members, who are in the vast majority, are members of local tribes.

They are trained to do nothing but collect information on Swapo and to hunt down Swapo spies, saboteurs and armed fighters.

They have no formal police training.

Divided into squads they are commanded by white policemen, most of whom come from South Africa.

There is a very tight bond among members and stories of how they stand by each other in fights and arguments are legion in the operational area.

The black members are known as special constables and with the uniforms they wear the title is designed to confuse the enemy.

At a special training college in Ovamboland hundreds of special constables are produced every year.

These men are distributed to many centres with the main task of guarding political leaders, chiefs and headmen.

Only a very small percentage of these men--the cream--are recruited by Koevoet.

Koevoet members have become targets for Swapo, which has now resorted to trying to pick them off individually.

Police say Swapo spies collect information on the homes of members and when they will be on leave.

There have been a number of cases of attacks, some successful, on members at home.

Koevoet has also been made subject to the various bodies that had been established to deal with complaints about the security forces.

In Ovamboland where most of Swapo's—and as a result, Koevoet's—activities are centered, a council of all sectors of the population and security force members under the chairmanship of Ovambo politician Mr Peter Kalungula, investigates each complaint.

Each allegation was also thoroughly investigated by the police, General Verster said.

He admitted that the unit was not perfect. "There are rotten apples in every organisation."

CSO: 3400/656

NAMIBIA

CONCERN SHOWN FOR SOCIETY AFTER WAR ENDS

Durban THE DAILY NEWS in English 16 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by Bruce Cameron: "SWA's Economic Elite Facing a Fragile Future"]

[Text] A settlement in South West Africa could be a disaster for the people of the territory, particularly in the operational area.

The disaster would have very little to do with whatever Government took power--and it would be hard put to prevent it.

The militarisation of the territory has changed the socio-economic life of nearly every citizen.

With the security forces have come vast amounts of money, jobs and, for many, a totally new style of living.

Take for instance bushmen serving in the security forces.

They can earn anything between R500 and R700 a month fighting Swapo. Many of them came from virtual slavery with no concept of how to handle money and often no idea of what money was.

Education was minimal and most lived a hand-to-mouth existence.

There are eight ethnic units in the operational area and each was more or less in the same position of having a subsistence living until the war started.

With very few jobs available in the operational area, thousands have joined the army while thousands more would like to do so.

Outside many camps signs have been posted saying there are no jobs available. Military commanders all talk of queues still forming almost daily and hope of a job.

They have moved off the land and joined the consumer society.

The black soldiers of the operational area are the new economic elite of the tribal areas within the war zone.

But it is a consumer society gone mad. The bushmen at the Omega base are probably the best example.

In the camp there must be more bicycles per head of population than in the Netherlands.

A Flat Tyre

One army officer said the situation was so bad that if a bicycle had a flat tyre the owner often discarded it and bought another.

The money is spent liberally on domestic appliances, radios and clothing.

The army, realising the problem, is now trying to educate them in modern economics, explaining and encouraging savings, insurance and pension schemes among other concepts.

Military spokesmen say they are starting to have some success but they still have a long way to go.

The problem will come when there is no longer a war and the military jobs will not be available. By then they will have lost touch with what they were and would not want to give up their present lives of comparative luxury for what they had before.

An independent South West Africa is also highly unlikely to be able to afford a large army, particularly one in which its soldiers were receiving salaries that were higher than other occupations.

There is another leg to this problem and that is the battle to "win the hearts and minds of the people."

Winning the support of the local population has been a major task in any guerilla war. Without the support of the local population, insurgents have very little chance of success.

This the army claims is one of the major reasons why the former hot spot of Caprivi is now so quiet.

One army officer said: "We have won the war in Caprivi. We have won the hearts and minds of the people."

To win the support of the local tribes the army launched a massive campaign called in short "Com. Ops.," which stands for Communication Operations.

Millions of rands are being spent on this programme which entails providing better health services, educational facilities and even a better administration.

Everywhere in the operational area there is evidence of military personnel in nearly every state institution.

Without army assistance the people of the area would still face a future of a very high illiteracy rate, poor health services and poor administration.

Again the question is, what happens after the war ends and the army goes?

The money paying for the campaign comes from the South African taxpayer and will future South African Governments be able to afford the political cost of paying vast sums of money in aid to a foreign state?

These are questions that could not be answered by military personnel.

They have, however, realised the problem and questions are being asked.

In Zimbabwe the huge amounts of foreign aid promised at the time of the Lancaster House Agreement have in the main evaporated and the country is struggling under a heavy post-war debt.

Any similar promises could evaporate in an independent South West Africa.

The concern is that the sudden pulling out of the military economic carpet could cause huge social problems, such as a high crime rate.

Military commanders at Omega for instance, pride themselves on the fact that there is no theft at the base. Nothing is locked up.

But without R500 to R700 a month what would happen?

CSO: 3400/656

FEAR OF MAIZE CROP LOSS REPORTED GROWING

Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 21 Jan 84 p 26

[Text]

OTAVI: There is no denial that trepidation is growing in the hearts of many maize producers. That, at least, was the case until Monday of this week. Rains have started, after an initial good start, to become sporadic over wide areas.

The plants in most cases are still very small. Most of the fields I looked at, showed that they were barely 15 cm in height, and now in dire need of fresh downpours.

Thousands of hectares have been ploughed this year in the Otavi basin, the vast plains to the west of Waterberg, and the north and north east of both Grootfontein and Tsumeb. From the air in particular it looks good, but the sight is deceptive. The weather has not exactly played ball in the past three weeks, with exceptions of course.

Many producers have stopped their planting

operations. In their view there is still sufficient growing time left, if good rains start now and even in February, if not too late in that month.

Chatting to the miller at the grain mills at Otavi, Mr Daan Etsebeth, I was struck by his solid optimism. Loading the scale of forecast, he reckons the season could turn out to be one of the better periods for a long time.

He still has on hand from the previous season 15 000 bags of maize waiting for the teeth of his mill. Proudly he states that his current rate of processing is 1 000 bags a day. The demand for flour is heavy, particularly from the great north where good rains have resulted in a planting period.

At least, he comments, the mill is assured of about 33 000 bags of maize when the harvest starts. That consignment, he says, will come from

the new agricultural marvel at Otavifontein where Mr Madella Bonadei and his son-in-law, Mr Jackie Savodelli, had created the single biggest agricultural project of the country to be in private hands.

The project is not dependent on the rain, for it is an irrigation project, fed by the water of the Otavi Mountains.

The country's single largest maize producer, Mr Boet Bester of Oti-jwarongo, is quiet. He again cultivated and planted 1 100 hectares of fields, running contiguously. If all goes well his harvest will be about five tons a hectare - a production too big for the mills at Otavi.

There are many producers, and if the season does not disappoint expectations, the country will be in a position to be at least exempted from maize imports.

CSO: 3400/694

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

TSUMEB SMELTING PLANT--Tsumeb--The General Manager of Tsumeb Corporation Limited, Mr Bob Meiring, said on Thursday that it was to be welcomed that copper and lead ores were being consigned from other producers outside South West Africa to the smelter plant at Tsumeb. A consignment of nearly 3000 tons of such ores were presently on their way to the plant, and several trains were required to complete the haul. "It provides us with work, with much needed money. It also provides our under utilised rail track system with cargo. You are aware of the depressed period in which the industry finds itself, and as a result we are very happy for this is an aid to our job structure and to the good of the country in general," Mr Meiring said. He said that it was never sound policy to disclose the identity of a client. However, he could confirm that the consignment of ores reaching Tsumeb at the latter half of the week were from producers outside South West Africa. In the first half of December last year Tsumeb Corporation laid off nearly 1000 workers, attributing this huge entrenchment to the slump in the market for base minerals, which although it has shown an upward inclination, still falls short of the desired results. The laying off effected Matchless, south west of Windhoek, which is in a complete shutdown apart from skeleton staff to look after the gear and plant, Otjihase east of Windhoek, still producing, Kombat and Tsumeb itself. Mr Meiring made much of it that Tsumeb Corporation Ltd was South West Africa company and he tried to diminish the role of Tsumeb's foreign shareholders, which according to the financial statements, are in fact all foreign investments. The upshot of the Tsumeb entrenchment came in a year marked by progressive deterioration in the economy, spelling greater disaster for the current year. [Text] [Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English 21 Jan 84 p 14]

CSO: 3400/656

NIGERIA

REORGANIZATION OF ANAMBRA STATE DETAILED

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Chris Ogbakirigwe and Cyprian Madu]

[Text] The Anambra State Military Governor, Commander Alison Madueke has announced the reorganisation of public service and local government administrations in the state.

In a special broadcast to the people of the state yesterday, Commander Madueke said that ministries in the state had been reduced to nine in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Military Council.

The ministries are Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Education and Finance and Economic Planning.

Others are Health, Information, Justice, Local Governments, and Works, Lands and Transport.

Commander Madueke noted that as a result of the restructuring the number and position of permanent secretaries in the state civil service have been reduced from 43 to 21.

Out of this number a permanent secretary has been deployed to the Military Governor's Office, seven to the Office of the Secretary to the Military Government and Head of Service, while 10 have been deployed to the Ministries and three to "Specialised Commissions."

He also announced that 10 former permanent secretaries have been deployed to major local government areas as sole administrators.

Governor Madueke then directed the Secretary to the Government and Head of Service to post the affected officers immediately and to deploy other suitable administrative officers to the rest of the local government areas as sole administrators.

Commander Madueke further directed all permanent secretaries appointed from any grade below level 15 within the public service to revert to their former status before such appointment, while all the permanent secretaries appointed outside the public service are relieved of their appointment with immediate effect.

The governor also terminated the appointment of chairmen and board members of all public corporations, statutory bodies and government-owned companies in the state.

In the interim, all such bodies will be managed by a committee of officials with the General Manager/Director General/Rector/Provost/President as chairman while the Deputy General Manager, Company Secretary, Director of Administration and the Financial Controller would be members of the management committee.

Governor Madueke also announced the reversion of local government areas from its present composition of 54 to 23 as contained in the suspended 1979 constitution.

In addition, all administrative officers who were secretaries to local governments as at December 1 last year are to return immediately to their stations until the arrival of the sole administrators, while all those appointed secretaries of local governments from December 6 to December 31 last year are to hand over immediately to the former secretaries of their various local governments.

He further directed that those secretaries appointed between December 1 to 31 last year should return to their former capacities, while all public servants who were duly employed within the rules governing such appointments with effect from January 1 last year and whose appointments were terminated by the past civilian administration are hereby reinstated and should start work on February 1.

He said that those who were not duly appointed within approved rules with effect from October 10 last year stand dismissed.

The state governor then ordered all public officers who by virtue of this announcement ceased to be in the employ of the state to vacate their quarters with immediate effect and to ensure that they render accounts of all government property in their possession to the Secretary to the Government and Head of Service.

CSO: 3400/695

ACCOUNTS OF FORMER POLITICAL APPOINTEES FROZEN IN BAUCHI

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Jan 84 p 16

[Article by Abubakar Umar]

[Text]

BAUCHI State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Hamza Usman Katsina, has directed bank managers to freeze the accounts of all former political appointees in the state.

He said any withdrawals must be with the knowledge or his office.

He requested bank managers to tender the statements of accounts of all the banned six political parties in the state at all levels.

Also former legislators in the state have been ordered to pay back money they must have received as housing or car loans or the vehicles bought with the bans and touring advances by tomorrow.

The accountant-general of the state and the clerk of the defunct state Assembly have been directed by the police command to submit names of such

beneficiaries not later than 12 noon yesterday.

The police also directed former legislators who removed government property from their former official quarters following the change of government, to return them immediately, to avoid confrontation.

Bank managers in the state were to report to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr. A. A. Akale at the police headquarters in Bauchi yesterday and submit the statements of accounts of all banned political parties.

The police warned bank managers not to tamper with any accounts of the banned political parties which had since been frozen by the Federal Military Government.

It warned that any of them caught flouting the order would have himself to blame.

Meanwhile, all vehicles of the banned six political parties have been impounded by the divisional police officers (DPO) throughout the state.

CSO: 3400/692

MUSLIMS RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE WORRIES GOVERNOR

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Jan 84 p 16

[Article by Ibrahim Salihu]

[Text]

SOKOTO State has more religious intolerance among its various Islamic sects than any other state in the federation.

Military Governor of the state, Brigadier Garba Duba, made this remark while delivering his maiden speech on the state's Radio and Television on Monday.

He said the situation was more disturbing when one realised that the population of the state is predominantly muslims. He reminded the people that peace was the cardinal pivot on which social, political and economic development of any society rotated.

Brigadier Duba said it was a must for all of us to do our best and maintain peace so that the programmes of the military government could be implemented.

He expressed happiness that there was no accumulation of outstanding workers' salaries, particularly in the state's civil service and pledged to do his best

and ensure the settlement of salary adjustment arrears for local government workers as a result of the national income policy guidelines.

The governor also appealed to commercial houses' agents and traders who had stocked essential commodities to bring them out and sell them to the public at reasonable prices.

He reminded them that hoarding was a great offence to Allah and mankind. He said the Federal Military Government has promised to supplement the current shortfall of foodstuffs which was occasioned by drought, adding that he would ensure a fair distribution of such supplies to the affected areas whenever they arrived.

Brigadier Duba repeated that one of the fundamental priorities of the state government was to revive the state economy, adding that they intended to review the 1984 budget proposal submitted by the defunct civil administration to ensure prudent management and proper utilisation of the state's scarce resources.

CSO: 3400/695

GOVERNMENT URGED TO ENFORCE SABOTAGE LAW

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 18 Jan 84 p 3

[Editorial in the column "Daily Times Opinion": "Economic Saboteurs"]

[Text] The nation-wide jubilation that greeted the military administration was particularly due to the pervading belief that the soldiers would make life once more bearable for the citizenry.

Several months before the coup d'etat, millions of Nigerians were finding it difficult to buy foodstuff and other essential commodities because their prices were prohibitive.

Often, the hyper inflation was not necessarily caused by the unavailability of the commodities in the country, but by the unscrupulous manipulation by distributors who locked up these goods in warehouse and released small quantity to the market at a time to achieve their selfish objective of maximising profit.

The hardship inflicted on the common man by high prices induced the civilian governments of Sokoto, Niger and Kaduna to enact laws against hoarding. And since the military came to power they have confiscated many hoarded goods for public auctioning. They have also made incessant pleas to the shylock traders to make their goods available in the markets.

One intriguing aspect of this economic sabotage is that there has been a law against hoarding and profiteering for about seven years now. But everybody seems to have forgotten about it. The Price Control Decree No 1 of 1977, section seven, made hoarding an offence punishable by six months imprisonment without an option of fine in case of an individual or not less than N5,000 fine when the culprit is a corporate body.

To our knowledge this decree has not been repealed. So what encouraged hoarding to reach its monstrous proportion before the military intervention was the non-enforcement of this Act (Decree). The plausible explanation for this culpable action was that most of the big time hoarders were top politicians and their proxies who were adept in bending the law to suit their needs.

Now that the soldiers are in power they should set up a very effective machinery to ensure the strict enforcement of the decree. It then means that apart from confiscating the hoarded goods as stipulated by the decree, the offenders should be prosecuted promptly.

The government should view seriously the activities of hoarders because they invariably undermine the general interest of all Nigerians by making life unbearable for the citizenry. As should be expected, the disenchanted citizens often vent their anger on government and the consequence could be calamitous.

No matter the efforts that the present regime might make to flood the markets with essential commodities, the incidence of high prices will linger on unless this cankerworm is routed forcibly from the nation's economic system.

To achieve a lasting result, the Federal Military Government should educate Nigerians to know that the few people who have the privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of distributing goods also have the bounden duty to make them available at reasonable prices.

CSO: 3400/692

NIGERIA

DEMORALIZATION ATTEMPT REPORTED AMONG CENSUS WORKERS

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 23 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Fears have gripped the workers of National Population Commission (NPC), the body set up with the responsibility of conducting the nation's census following the change of government.

Many of the officials including the Chairman, Alhaji Abdul Rahman Okene are reported to be still functioning in office until the government decision on the commission is made public.

In a circular January 13, 1984 and addressed to the workers, the secretary of the commission wrote inter alia:

It has come to the knowledge of this office that some officers as a result of the present change in government have been peddling rumours around the office with a view to demoralising the services and the staff of the commission.

I am to state that the names of such officers are not unfamiliar to the authority.

You are therefore advised in your own interest to desist from such unpatriotic attitude.

However, I am to inform you that the Federal Military Government is yet to take a decision on the commission and when this is done you will be informed.

The letter was signed by one Abubakar on behalf of the secretary to the National Population Commission.

CSO: 3400/695

MOVE TO ABUJA MAY BE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 31 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Text]

THE first phase of the movement of Federal Government civil servants to Abuja may be completed one year before the target date of 1986.

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Alhaji Haliru Dantoro, disclosed this to the visiting Nigerian former Head of State, Mr. Yakubu Gowon, in his office on Wednesday.

Alhaji Haliru described the investments in Abuja as justified, adding that the idea of an alternative federal capital was a reality.

The minister said he had implicit confidence in the ongoing projects at Abuja even though he had spent only four weeks there. He appealed to Nigerians to help develop the federal capital by investing in its development.

He said it was during Gowon's administration that the idea of a new federal capital was conceived, which later caught the attention of the Murtala/Obasanjo regime.

Responding, Mr. Gowon said in 1975, he invited retired General Theophilus Danjuma to undertake a helicopter flight of some central parts of the country with a view to identifying a possible alternative capital for the country.

He commended the regime which took up the idea of a new capital and praised the civilian regime for the zeal with which it has been executing the projects in Abuja.

Mr. Gowon, who was conducted round the major projects in Abuja later left for Jos with his wife, Victoria, after a lunch with the minister.

CSO: 3400/692

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT REPORTED WASTED IN BURNO

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Jan 84 p 16

[Article by Sani Haruna]

[Text]

A NUMBER of containers filled with sophisticated electronic equipment worth millions of Naira are now lying waste at the Gujba Aerostat Balloon Station in Burno State following the discontinuation of work on the project.

The Gujba station is one of the five balloon stations for which the Shagari administration had already spent more than 100 million Naira.

When our reporter visited the station over the weekend, only two watchmen and an acting project manager were present. All American employees of T-Com (Nig) Limited handling the project were said to have gone back to the United States about seven months ago.

The project which was started in 1976 was scheduled for completion in 1980, but work stopped in 1979 due to lack of funds. The project was designed to carry telephone lines and used for radio and television transmissions.

The defunct Shagari administration had suspended the project about six months ago and entered into negotiations to terminate the contract but a T-Com official at the Gujba site could not say what the exact position was. He said the American officials handling the project had not left finally adding that the company's office in Lagos was still in operation.

Some officials of the Ministry of Communications had already remarked the view that the use of balloon communication system was out-dated and that it would be better for the country to switch to satellite communication system. They argued that only a few countries use balloon system and mostly for military purposes.

CSO: 3400/692

VARIED POPULATION ESTIMATES SAID HAMPERING COUNTRY

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Ndu Ughamadu]

[Text] About twenty years after the 1963 head count which put the country's population at 55.66 million with a growth rate of 2.5 percent, planners in the private and public sectors have been using different population figures and growth rates for their works.

Findings by the BUSINESS TIMES showed that after the 1973 controversial census with a "strictly provisional" figure of 79.76 million, which was later cancelled, the public sector has been subjected to using 2.5 percent in projecting the country's population.

The private sector, however, uses figures that range from 2.8 to 3.5 percent thereby bringing about discrepancies in data analyses.

The UNO, World Bank and the world's authoritative population source--"The population Reference Bureau"--have expressed concerns over these discrepancies.

The world development report 1983 just released from Washington has put Nigeria's population growth rate for 1981--2,000 as 3.5 percent while the World as a basis for planning Bank Annual Report 1983 had estimated for mid 1981 as 87.603,000.

In the country, nevertheless many depend on 'guess work' in their usage of population data: They say 80 million, 82 million, 84 million etc, our investigations further showed.

The importance of reliable and uniformly applicable growth rate and total population cannot be over emphasised.

For sure, we need such and execution of our multi-billion naira development projects.

Of course, no one would doubt the numerous advantages of obtaining them. It is needed to institute programmes that will improve health, literacy, income level, food supplies, industrial output. It provides basis for the much needed economic, demographic and social research.

But when data on total population and growth rate vary, as we are experiencing in the country, there is bound to be either, under or over designing of project capacities involving the above basic indicators and by extension waste of resources.

Surely, given the poor state of knowledge and condition with respect to the country's demographic situation, the Fourth National Development Plan 1981 85 notes:

"The overriding objective of policy during the plan period is to make a serious beginning in generating adequate and reliable population data for planning and decision making...a nationwide head count will be organised with a view to establishing firm benchmark for future population census."

This, accordingly, it hopes to achieve through the National Population Commission, (NPC). Our investigations further showed that little has been achieved in this respect.

Asked why the National Population Commission has not come out with a reliable and authentic growth rate and total population figure for the country, the former chairman of the commission, Alhaji Abdulrahaman Okene said:

"Inadequate and reliable data on total population by age, sex, fertility and mortality rates, have handicapped the commission."

At a workshop organised by the (NPC) at Zaria recently, one of the Committees put the country's population growth rate as ranging between 2.5 percent and 3 percent.

It further said: "The growth rate of our population constitutes a problem especially in the light of the existing condition of our economy, resources, production and social welfare."

Another committee recommended the use of serial photography for human population data collection in the country.

On solution to the increasing rate, he contended that government should emphasise strongly on the need for family planning in Nigeria.

CSO: 3400/695

NIGERIA

STEVEDORE OCCUPATION RESERVED FOR NIGERIANS

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 23 Jan 84 p 24

[Article by Jackson Imafidon]

[Text] Cargo handling in all the Nigerian seaports is reserved exclusively for indigenous stevedoring contractors as a matter of policy.

Mr S.E. Bassey, the executive secretary of the National Dock Labour Board, NDLB, told the Business Times last week that the core of the policy is the security of the country.

He was reacting to moves by some foreign shipping companies to register stevedoring companies with the intent of operating stevedoring activities in the ports.

Mr Bassey, whose board had registered 87 stevedoring contractors, 61 of which were registered during the last four years, pointed out that the shipping companies want to have for themselves all the businesses and the proceeds in Nigerian ports at the same time.

During the last board registration exercise, he disclosed, the panel had had to turn down applications from some shipping companies with the intention of securing registration as stevedoring contractors.

Mr Bassey added that the practice whereby the Nigerian Ports Authority allots berths and jobs to stevedoring contractors is far enough.

He noted that it would be a form of security risk to permit shipping companies to independently appoint or select the stevedoring contractors that would work on their ships.

CSO: 3400/695

DROUGHT DESTROYS FOOD CROPS IN CROSS RIVER

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 3 Jan 84 p 11

[Article by Edet Orok]

[Text]

THE Cross River State has so far lost food crops estimated at 150,000,000 Naira to drought that engulfed the state at the beginning of last year, the president general of the state farmers association, Chief J.D. Esema, has announced.

In a release issued in Calabar, Chief Esema said that the information came as a result of the research conducted by the association during the last season.

He disclosed that the drought did not only destroy grains, plantains, cassava and vegetables, but also affected oil palm trees resulting in low yields which in turn led to scarcity of palm oil in the markets.

The drought, he said, also affected severely the northern part of the state where yams, maize and other essential food crops are produced in large quantities, now resulting in very poor harvest.

He said that if immediate steps were not taken to remedy the situation, the Cross River State and the neighbouring states that buy from it would be starved.

Chief Esema suggested that effort should be made to increase

food production in the state by increasing acreage of cultivation and by introducing local irrigation system farms along river basins as ways of averting the imminent famine in the state in particular, and the country in general.

He also called for the introduction of incentives to farmers by way of granting them food-subsidy in cash and kind.

Chief Esema said that the downward trend in our agricultural productivity had reached such an alarming proportion that need urgent action by every one.

Chief Esema also called upon the state government to view the situation with great concern.

He then assured of the support of the association to revamp the agricultural sector in the state, and called for new approaches and effective planning of agricultural economy that would provide a new lease of life.

Chief Esema however warned against levity in approach to measures aimed at improving our food production, adding that no such measures should be dismissed with the wave of the hand.

CSO: 3400/695

CHAD BASIN AUTHORITY TAKING STEPS IN DROUGHT

Measures Listed

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 31 Dec 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Sani Haruna]

[Text]

CHAD Basin Development Authority (CBDA) is doubling its irrigational activities this season in an effort to minimise the effect of drought throughout the areas of its operation.

Speaking to the New Nigerian in an interview in Maiduguri on Wednesday, the General Manager of the authority, Alhaji Bunu Sheriff Musa, said because of the serious effects of the drought in the area, the authority would, this season, cultivate 12,000 hectares of land as against 6,000 cultivated in the last season.

He said the authority was embarking on this accelerated expansion programme in view of the drought and without any additional financial assistance from the Federal Government.

Alhaji Bunu urged the Federal Government to give more funds to the authority to

make the expansion programme a success.

He also appealed to the Federal Government to give extra financial assistance to all the river basin development authorities in the northern part of the country where the effects of drought were more serious.

Alhaji Bunu argued that river basin authorities were the best answer to the drought, provided adequate financial assistance and moral support were given to them.

He said the effects of drought were too serious in parts of Borno State and urged the Federal Government to step up efforts in assisting the victims by way of relief supplies.

He said over 10,000 tonnes of wheat were harvested last season, adding that if the authority's plan to irrigate 12,000 hectares this season

succeeded, over 20,000 tonnes of wheat would be harvested.

Alhaji Bunu said the CBDA had long-term plan aimed at combating the effects of drought. He said borehole drilling had been going on successfully and so far 150 boreholes had been sunk.

He refuted allegations that the authority sold large quantity of wheat to some dubious individuals who hoarded the commodity.

He said the authority sold a very minor quantity to individuals at five bags per person, adding that the authority had no power to force the farmers to sell to the Grains Board or to anybody else.

Alhaji Bunu said the farmers were free to sell their produce to anybody or organisation.

He said the number of farmers settled by the authority this year had risen to 4,500 as against 2,044 last year.

Crops Harvested

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 2 Jan 84 p 16

[Text]

THE Chad Basin Development Authority (CBDA) harvested 14,044 tonnes of food crops from its 6,257 cultivated farmland in the 1982/83 season, the General Manager of the authority, Alhaji Bunu Musa, said at a news conference in Maiduguri on Friday.

The crops include rice, wheat, cotton and vegetables.

Alhaji Bunu said that the authority was expected to cultivate about 49,000 hectares of land by 1985 and had already increased its boreholes from 147 to 160.

According to him, the authority sells 100 kilograms bag of rice at the controlled price of 30 Naira.

He said that individuals were not allowed to purchase more than 10 bags of the authority's rice at a time. (NAN).

CSO: 3400/692

NIGERIA

CEREAL CROP PRODUCTION SAID DOWN BY 35 PERCENT

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Ngozi Ikeano]

[Text] The drought that swept through the country caused the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) a reduced crop production of 7,145 tons or 35.6 percent from its projects, BUSINESS TIMES has learnt.

A total of 20,046 tons of cereal crops (comprising of rice, maize and sorghum) was expected by the authority from 19 of its pilot farms but it got 12,901 tons instead.

A project-by-project break-down of the loss from drought shows that the highest percentage reduction was at the 'Savannah' farm.

Here the authority expected 2,400 tons but received 960 tons (a loss of 1,440 tons) representing about 60 percent reduction.

The least percentage reductions came from three projects. These are 'Bantaje' where the anticipated yield dropped from 825 tons to 650 tons; 'Dongs' where the production was 468 tons from an expected 587 tons and 'Lau' with a fall from an anticipated 675 tons to 542 tons.

Ten of the farms recorded a 50 percentage reduced production. Among them are 'Bagel' whose yield dropped from an expected 467 tons to 230 tons, 'Kunde' from anticipated 125 to 61 tons; 'Ruwan Sanyi,' from expected 29 to 14 tons; 'Kirfi' from 300 to 150 tons; 'Monsur' from an expected 51 to 25 tons.

Other are 'Das' from anticipated 30 to 15 tons; 'Duguri' from an expected 603 to 300 tons; 'Dindima' from anticipated 15 to 8 tons; 'Talun' from an expected 400 to 200 tons and Tractor Hiring Units project from anticipated 1,500 tons to 750 tons.

The reduction from the 'IBI' farm was about 40 percent (from an expected 600 to 360 tons while another 40 percent drop from 165 to 100 tons) was recorded at the 'Gurin' farm.

From the 'Dadin Kowa' project came a loss of 186 tons, representing a 30 percent reduction was witnessed over the 603 tons expected from it. About 33 percent reduction at the 'Gassol' farm from where the authority expected 3,660 tons but got 2,400 tons.

With a fall from an anticipated 7,000 tons to 5,250 tons, the drop in yield at the 'Mayo Ine' Project is in the region of 25 percent.

CSO: 3400/695

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

BLACK MARKET RATE DROPS--The exchange rate of foreign currency in the black market has dropped, a SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN investigation has revealed. The pound sterling which as at December last year was being exchanged for 5 Naira 20 kobo to a pound is now being exchanged for 4 Naira. Also, the dollar that was exchanged for 4 Naira as at December is now being exchanged at 3 Naira. When the SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN interviewed some currency traffickers, they attributed the drop to the recent cut in Basic Travelling Allowance (B.T.A.) which has obviously discouraged many Nigerians from travelling abroad. Since the military take over, there have been an unusual calm atmosphere at notorious spots known as bases for currency traffickers, the SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN further observed. At the Bristol Hotel in Lagos, currency traffickers who used to boldly approach prospective customers are now scared of making their identities known to strangers. SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN investigation further revealed that currency traffickers who had fled Lagos immediately after the military take over, wasted no time in drafting back. Since last week, business has been booming as before.
[Bukky Wilson] [Text] [Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 22 Jan 84 p 1]

CSO: 3400/692

ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES RESULTS OF TRIP ABROAD

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by John Waluye]

[Text] A two-man team from India is expected in the country soon to study and advise the Government on the water supply situation in Dar es Salaam.

The Minister for Water and Energy, Ndugu Al-noor Kassum, said on arrival in the city from India yesterday the Indian government had agreed to send the team of experts to assist on the city recurring water supply problem.

Badly hit areas include the main campus of the University, industries in Pugu Road, Sinza, Mbagala, Mtoni and Tandika areas.

The Minister, who was on a 7-week tour of France, Canada, Holland and India said he also held discussions with the Chairman of the Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Colonel S. Wahi, on future exploration of oil and gas in Tanzania by ONGC.

Ndugu Kassum said an evaluation team from ONGC was expected in the country shortly to study the situation and prepare a report to be presented to the Indian and Tanzanian governments for action.

Ndugu Kassum said in Canada he held talks with a Canadian firm, Shawnigan, on construction of power transmission lines from Dodoma to Singida, Singida to Shinyanga, and Shinyanga to Mwanza.

A pre-technical study to provide the basis for the transmission line is expected to be undertaken soon, he pointed out.

He noted that the line which will be built with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Yugoslav Government, was an extension of the power grid from the Kidatu hydroelectric power plant in Morogoro Region.

In the Hague and in Paris, Ndugu Kassum said he discussed with representatives of the Swedish interests on the proposed Kilwa Ammonia Company (KILAMCO) as well as the partner in the joint venture, Agrico, which is an American firm.

He said some progress had been made on the joint venture which will utilise natural gas from Songo Songo and provide ammonia fertilizer and urea.

TANZANIA

TANZANIA, SIDA BEGIN ANNUAL TALKS ON PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENT

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 14 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Tanzania and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) yesterday began annual consultations which will centre on the improving production in the areas of farm implements, cement, paper and printing and industrial exports.

The consultations are expected to cover the on-going programmes and projects aided by SIDA and preparations of a tentative budget and actions plan for 1984/85, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Industries in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The statement said the consultations will feature discussions with major SIDA-aid recipient institutions such as the Small-Scale Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and Tanzania Saruji Corporation (TSC).

Others are the Tanzania Industrial Studies and Consulting Organisation (TISCO), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Metal Engineering Industries Development Association (MEIDA).

The SIDA delegation, led by the Authority's Representative in Tanzania, Ndugu Gun Brit Anderson, yesterday held talks with the Minister for Industries, Ndugu Basil Mramba.

It was agreed during yesterday's meeting that the consultations should aim at the use of available SIDA assistance to improve utilisation of existing industrial capacities in support of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

Final discussions will be held on February 24, during which the agreed recommendations will be tabled for consideration and will be presented at the next annual session to be held before June this year.

CSO: 3400/687

TANZANIA

USSR TENTATIVELY AGREES TO COPRODUCE FEATURE FILM WITH TFC

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Robert Karashani]

[Text] The Soviet Union has tentatively agreed to co-produce a full length feature film set in local scenery together with the Tanzania Film Company (TFC).

A protocol to this effect was signed in Dar es Salaam on Monday by Africa Department Chief of Soviet Film Union Corporation (SOVIN-FILM) Ndugu Tomas Topadze, and TFC General Manager Ndugu Elly Mboto.

Ndugu Topadze, who left for Moscow yesterday after a week-long tour of TFC shooting sites in the country, said this was the Soviet Union's first intended feature film venture on the African continent apart from short documentaries in several countries.

The protocol mapped out the main clauses of the final joint contract which will be subject to approval by the Bank of Tanzania, the TFC Board of Directors and Soviet film authorities.

SOVINFILM will provide shooting equipment and pay for editing, sound works and material-processing to be carried out in the Soviet Union. TFC will finance a two-month stay in the country of the Soviet film crew during shooting.

TFC will also undertake all necessary administrative work in the country including obtaining permits to work in national parks, payment of customs duties and provisions of helicopters and actors costumes. The film, conventionally titled A Dangerous Safari will be based on literary scripts to be prepared by local and Soviet script writers. Directors are to be brought over from the Soviet Union.

Both sides to the venture are expected to independently work out their own production budgets.

A four-man Soviet delegation will visit the country later to sign a preliminary agreement, collect basic materials, and reach an agreement with TFC on the film script. Their expenses will be paid by TFC.

CSO: 3400/687

IMPLEMENTATION OF SEVEN IRRIGATION PROJECTS TO START THIS YEAR

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 16 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

IMPLEMENTATION of seven national irrigation projects covering 9,765 hectares will start this year, the Director of Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ndugu Hamisi Mwinyigoha, has told *Shihata*.

The projects are part of 14 schemes which the Irrigation Division has earmarked for implementation starting this year.

Under the National Food Strategy drawn two years ago, Tanzania has targeted to put 125,000 hectares under full irrigation and 255,000 hectares under partial irrigation by the year 2,000.

Ndugu Mwinyigoha said the projects for implementation this year were the Kitivo rice project in Tanga to cover 600 hectares, Mwamapuli cotton/rice project in Tabora (625 hectares), Bugwema cotton project (1,700) and Bugwema solar powered project in Mara Region (40).

Others are Lower Moshi project (2,300), Usangu in Mbeya (1,200) which will also cover 3,000 hectares from each of the two NAFCO (National Agriculture and Food Corporation) farms of Kapunga (5,700) and Madibira (3,240). The NAFCO projects are directed at helping peasants in the area.

The other one is Bahi/Kintku project in Dodoma Region which will cover 400 hectares.

At present, about 30,000 hectares are under irrigation farming in Tanzania in which paddy, sugar cane and other crops are grown. Feasibility study is being undertaken over some 15,340 hectares.

According to the Irrigation Department's schedule, projects under feasibility study at present are Kalenga 1,200 hectares and Lukori 4,000 in Iringa Region undertaken by experts from the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Others are Mgeta — 1,000 hectares, Kilangali — 400 Mgongola — 400 Malolo — 1,000 and Mvumi — 500, all

in Morogoro Region.

Coast Region has Matipwili — 400 hectares in Bagamoyo District and Lower Rufiji's pilot project — 1,000 hectares.

The Lower Rufiji has 85,000 hectares suitable for irrigation but its execution would depend on the success of the proposed Stiegler's Gorge under the Rufiji Basin Development Authority (RUBADA).

Rukwa Region has Uruira — 1,000 hectares under feasibility study while Mwanza Region has Bugolora

— 200 hectares Katunguro —
2,000 Luchula — 80 Luchelele
— 40 Bugando — 2,000 and
Kahangara — 120 hectares.

According to Ndugu Mwinyigoha, the Kitivo project is being backed financially by the African Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Tanzania Government at 57 per cent, 26.8 per cent and 16.2 per cent respectively.

Bugwema solar powered project is to get a 12m/- assistance in foreign component from the Italian government.

The Japanese government is financing the Lower Moshi project to which Tanzania will inject 15m/-, while the Usangu project is being financed by the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) together with Tanzania.

Ndugu Mwinyigoha also said that negotiations had reached advanced stage with the European Economic Community (EEC) for the Mwanza-Mara solar-powered irrigation project and that Kilangali Village and Kilangali state farms were among those being studied for execution.

Existing projects being rehabilitated are Upper Mkomazi — 500 hectares and Mnazi in Tanga Region — 200 hectares.

Accomplished projects include Kilombero One and Two — 8,400 hectares, Mtibwa in Morogoro — 6,000 hectares Tanganyika Planting Company 6,250 hectares and Kagera — 4,888 hectares.

CSO: 3400/687

TANZANIA

TAFICO MAKES 'REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT' IN FISHING

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Daniel Mshana]

[Text] The Tanzania Fisheries Corporation (TAFICO) made a remarkable improvement in its fishing activities last year when it sold 563 tonnes of fish and earned 16 million/- compared with only six million/-earned in 1982.

The TAFICO General Manager, Ndugu Raynald Mrope, told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that out of the catch, 453 tonnes of fish worth 8.2 million/- were sold to the National Cold Chain Operations (NCCO) for local consumption while 110 tonnes of prawns worth 7.8 million/- were exported to Japan, United States and Britain.

Ndugu Mrope attributed the increased earnings to efforts made in strengthening the corporation's fishing fleet as well as good performance made by its vessel--"MAMA TAFICO" which alone landed 82 tonnes of fish and 100 tonnes of prawns worth in total nine million/-.

"MAMA TAFICO" donated by the Japanese in September 1982 is a multi-purpose vessel fitted with a big fuel tank, water tank, modern processing and freezing equipment. It can service other fishing trawlers owned by TAFICO to enable them to stay at sea for a longer period.

Last year, he said, TAFICO supplemented its activities by collecting sea shells, sea cucumber, sea weeds and other related marine products from individual fishermen for sale to foreign markets. About 100 tonnes of sea cucumber were exported earning the nation over 840,000 in foreign exchange.

"We, however, experienced some problems which included defective fishing vessels, lack of spare parts and lack of shore base facilities," he added.

To alleviate these problems the corporation embarked on construction of shore base facilities such as workshop, office, cold room slipway, jetty and ice plant at Kigamboni in the city.

The General Manager revealed that this year TAFICO targeted to raise its landings to about 650 tonnes of fish and 150 tonnes of prawns worth in total 20 million.

The increase, he said, will be partly due to additional fishing vessels which will be repaired under the corporation's rehabilitation programme and partly to increased efforts in the village prawn collection activity.

"We expect to resume boat building by middle of this year as we have been promised by the government to be given money for buying marine engines. Last year we constructed many wooden fishing boats in Mwanza, Kigoma and Mikindani which are now lying idle because the needed marine engines have to be imported," Ndugu Mrope explained.

As for marine product collection, the corporation would collect and export more sea weeds, sea shells, sea cucumber and others for eight million in foreign exchange.

Ndugu Mrope furthermore said six defective vessels which were currently not operating would by 1986 be rehabilitated with the assistance of the Finnish and British governments.

"The idle landing capacity would be restored and increase annual landing capacity to about 4,500 tonnes of fish and 500 tonnes of prawns."

The General Manager said additional fishing vessels of the size of "MAMA TAFICO" would be acquired from Japan, but could not reveal when, as negotiations were still underway.

CSO: 3400/687

TIRDO SPOKESMAN SAYS NATION HAS ALL MATERIALS FOR SOAP MANUFACTURE

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 1 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Daniel Mshana]

[Text] Tanzania has all the necessary raw materials for the manufacture of soap and the current shortage of the product is uncalled for.

This was observed in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the sixth professional club meeting on information services within industry held at the National Correspondence Institute.

Dr P.K. Haule of the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) told the meeting that the country had abundant tallow, essential oils, caustic soda, silica sources and even the required technological know-how necessary for soap production, yet people lacked the product.

"Although the current economic situation partly contributes to the shortage, it should also be accepted that the lack of awareness of the available untapped raw materials aggravates the situation," he said.

Dr Haule said palm trees which give palm oil were not grown in many parts but "about 900 tonnes of palm oil could be produced from the kernels which are now being thrown away in Kigoma and Tanga regions."

Another major input in the soap industry which could be produced locally but was still being imported were volatile oils derived from the leaves, stems, flowers or twigs of plants which carry various odours.

"Today, practically all the companies which produced essential oils are no longer operating. The Government should seriously consider rehabilitating the Sigi Segoma farm project in Muheza and the Mombo-based industry which produced bitter orange and sandalwood oils, respectively," he pointed out.

Dr Haule said although lime trees were grown in Tanzania, there were no large plantations for purposes of extracting lime oil. The Mtwara Products Development processes lime juice for export to Britain, he added.

He also pointed out that since orange peels had not been used to produce oil, this was indicative of "our ignorance on the potential of the orange peel for soap production."

"Tangold company of Dar es Salaam throws away between 2,000 and 3,000 kilogrammes of orange peels per day while the Tropical Food Products disposes of about 500 kilogrammes which could be used to produce soap."

The meeting recommended that the soap manufacturing industries should start projects for raising quality livestock for the manufacture of tallow.

Opening the meeting, the Director of Research and Planning of the Board of External Trade, Dr William Lyakurwa said industrialists should do something to solve economic problems facing the country.

The participants were drawn from the Ministry of Industries, TIRDO, the University of Dar es Salaam, technical institutions and UNIDO.

CSO: 3400/687

STAPLE FOOD PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE RAPIDLY

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 30 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Market prices for staple foods which rose rapidly in the last quarter of 1983 particularly in the northwest of the country, have doubled by mid this month apparently because of transport problems and marketing regulations which have shut off market flows.

A tin of maize which was selling at 145/- and 195/- in Mwanza during the months of November and December last year respectively, sold at 300/- mid this month. In Shinyanga, it sold at 255/- but the commodity could not be found in markets of Tabora Region, the Ministry of Agriculture has said.

According to a monthly bulletin by the ministry's Marketing Development Bureau (MDB) high storage losses due to infestation by the larger grain borer, locally known as "scania" have also contributed to this state of affairs.

Prices of maize--the most important staple food--were comparatively lower on the western parts of Arusha Region and in Rukwa Region, but due to marketing regulations that shut off flows from these areas, prices rose in the northwestern parts of the country, it said.

Urambo District, traditionally a surplus area for the northwest, had producer prices of the commodity tripled in less than four months to over 900/- per bag as a result of the shortfall, the bulletin has further noted.

Another notable change has been in the southern highlands, where prices of maize have also been rising, although they were still much lower than those nearer to Lake Victoria basin where cassava prices are also reported to have risen.

Prices for cassava in Mwanza and Tabora had risen because of increased demand by those consumers who could not afford the price offered for maize, the bulletin has said.

Beans, one of the important protein sources also registered a significant increase, rising 26 percent more between November and December last year, while sorghum and wheat had a slight increase.

Among the major maize producing areas, only Songea had the lowest price of 42/30 per tin in December last year followed by Mbulu which had a price of 90/-. In the case of rice, it was more expensive in Arusha, Bukoba and Kigoma and the commodity has not been seen in Dar es Salaam's open markets for almost a year now.

Although wheat had registered a slight increase in price, the commodity has not been found in most open markets with the exception of Arusha, Mbulu, Moshi, Singida, Shiyanga, Mwanza, Sengerema, Njombe, Iringa, Kigoma and Sumbawanga. The same was for sorghum which was only found in the most important growing areas, the bulletin has said.

National average price for onions was 14/50 per kilo, that of tomatoes was 14/56, but the commodity was very cheap in Lushoto where it sold at 4/50 per kilo. Cabbage had an average price of 15/- per kilo, and oranges 2/23 per fruit. Coconuts had an average of 11/87 per nut.

CSO: 3400/687

EXPERTS NOTE CAUSES OF DECLINE OF CASHEW PRODUCTION

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 16 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] The declining producer prices of Cashewnuts, the non-renewability of cashew trees, market problems and slow delivery of cash to peasants by crop authorities have been singled out as the major causes of the decline of cashew production in Tanzania.

A paper titled "Advancing Cashew Production in East Africa" presented yesterday to the on-going conference of advancing agriculture in Africa here by three Tanzanian experts said as a consequence of poor economic returns from cashew, very few trees were planted since the 1970s.

The experts, L.C. Brown from the Mtwara/Lindi Regional Integrated Development Project (RIDEP), E. Ninja from Naliendele Agricultural Institute and A.S. Hamis of the National Scientific Research Council (UTAFITI) said because of poor farm attendance many farms had either been abandoned and contracted diseases or had been victims of forest fires.

The paper observed that because of poor prices, Tanzania's cashew production slumped from 145,000 tonnes in 1973/74 to 44,000 tonnes in 1982.

This trend, besides contributing to a substantial loss of foreign exchange, had also resulted in surplus processing capacity, a factor which had forced a good number of cashew processing plants in the country to be under utilised, the paper said.

It further said cashew production, which required very little foreign exchange, could still be rehabilitated if peasants were paid properly.

The experts said as cashew trees continued to age and remained unattended, they became victims of diseases and hence their yield potential declined prematurely not to mention the effect of abandonment.

Highlighting the crop's prospects, the experts said if the government was to reverse the declined trend, it would have to address itself to the root of the problem, rather than "hitherto, dissipating effort by trying to alleviate the symptoms."

The paper said comprehensive programme to rehabilitate the cashew crop should be worked out. Efforts should be made to match producer prices with cost of production so as to restore confidence in the farmers to cultivate the crop, they stressed.

They suggested that price rises such as those made by the Cashewnut Authority of Tanzania (CATA) in 1981 should be maintained and reviewed time after time. Also farmers should be encouraged to plant new trees and look after their cashew farms.

The paper said diseases currently affecting cashew farms would only be contained by proper attention of cashew trees and growing of new trees.

CSO: 3400/687

TANZANIA

MBEYA PEASANTS MOB TFA OFFICES TO OBTAIN FERTILIZER

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 16 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Adam Lusekelo]

[Text] Anxious Mbeya peasants have been mobbing the Tanzania Farmers Association (TFA) offices here struggling to get fertilizer for their maize crop.

Angry exchanges ensued as people jostled for positions in the long queue of both men and women yesterday prompting Mbeya's TFA Manager Edmund Matoli to seek police help.

Last Saturday, Shihata reported that the police had to intervene to maintain order at the TFA offices where windows had been shattered in a commotion occasioned by customers struggling to buy fertilizer.

Of late there has been acute shortage of sulphate ammonia and calcium ammonia nitrates required in the germination of the maize crop.

"I am not budging until I get my share of fertilizer," adamant peasant said yesterday. The peasants were mobbing the TFA following arrival of a truck carrying 25 tonnes of fertilizer.

Ndugu Matolis said: "We do not have enough fertilizer to meet all the requirements. We have so far sold 3,600 tonnes. We asked for another 2,000 from our marketing section, but we have been allocated only 300 tonnes."

He said so far they had received 126 tonnes out of the 300 tonnes allocated.

But some unscrupulous people are said to be taking advantage of the shortage by selling fertilizer at 300/- a bag. The official price is 94/05 per bag.

CSO: 3400/687

BRIEFS

UWT MEMBERSHIP INCREASE--The Tanzania Women's Organisation (UWT) has increased its membership by about 70 percent in the past five years, the UWT Secretary General, Ndugu Kate Kamba, said in Arusha yesterday. Welcoming the CCM Chairman, Mwalimu Nyerere to open the second UWT Conference, Ndugu Kamba said the number was expected to increase during the next five years because more women were willing to join the Organisation. She did not mention the current number of the Organisation's members. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 15 Feb 84 p 1]

COMPLETION OF BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION--Construction of a Bailey bridge across Mgoda River, some 45 kilometres west of Morogoro town, is expected to be completed by the end of this week, the Minister for Works, Ndugu Guntram Itatiro has told Shihata. The Minister, who on Monday flew by helicopter to the site, said the Government was going to mobilise military aircraft to airlift parts of the bridge from Lindi to Mikumi from where the parts would be hauled by motor vehicles to the site. The bridge at Mgoda was swept away by floods, leading to closure of the road section which links Dar es Salaam with Zambia, through Iringa and Mbeya towns. He said the Government was very much concerned with the situation as the road was partly "a life vein of Zambia's economy." [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 22 Feb 84 p 1]

JAPANESE FOOD PRODUCTION GRANT--Tanzania and Japan yesterday signed an agreement under which the latter will provide a grant of 35.27m/- for increased food production under the national food programme. The agreement was signed at the Treasury in Dar es Salaam by the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Mitsuo Asaba and the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Ndugu Fulgence Kazaura. According to an official of the Ministry of Finance, the grant will be used to purchase about 90 tractors, spare parts and other farm implements. [Text] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 9 Feb 84 p 1]

CSO: 3400/687

CURFEW IN SECURITY AREA 'SERIOUSLY HARMING BUSINESSES'

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 17 Feb 84 p 3

[Text]

THE effects of the curfew recently imposed on the huge security area from Bulawayo down to Plumtree and Beitbridge in Matabeleland (almost one-tenth of the country) is seriously harming businesses in the main towns involved.

Reports coming in to *The Gazette* from a number of leading businessmen in the "curfew triangle" this week indicate that already wholesale and retail tradesmen of Esigodini, Colin Bawn, West Nicholson, Plumtree, Gwanda and Beitbridge have experienced a severe drop in business activity.

Spokesmen in the area said that "without exception" hundreds of small stores in the rural areas outside the provincial towns have shut down completely, so that normal trade from these sources has abruptly ceased.

Although the towns themselves are not under curfew orders the populations living outside their borders are. Very few, if any rural people are able to visit the town supermarkets, garages and other shops to buy goods for their families.

Road blocks along all the roads entering and leaving the towns in the curfew area have also drastically restricted normal trade. A serious economic slump is now facing businessmen in the towns.

Reports to this effect have come in from various sources and were confirmed this week by Gwanda

businessman Mr Ray Hollins who owns a large wholesale and retail business and supermarket.

Mr Hollins said that the townspeople fully appreciate the reasons for the curfew, the road blocks and the closure of rural stores.

"It is something we shall have to get through somehow and try to survive. But we do ask our business creditors and the banks to try to understand our difficulties," he said.

"We can only ask them to try to help businessmen in these areas to get through this temporary period of problems. There is absolutely nothing any of us can do about it."

Without some understanding and patience from creditors, said Mr Hollins, many tradespeople of all kinds in the affected towns would be forced out of business permanently.

Mr Hollins only recently invested \$150 000 in setting up new premises in Gwanda. As one of the largest traders in the town he employs some 30 people in his wholesale and retail supermarket business. But last week at the beginning of the curfew now in force he said his turnover dropped by between 60% and 70%.

"Every businessman in this town is suffering from this drastic slump and serious cash-flow prob-

lems. We have all brought in good stocks recently and some of us have warehouses full of stuff. But almost nobody is coming into the towns to buy anything. Turnover is dropping like a stone while our capital is all tied up in stock."

He added that trade in the small rural towns had already been badly affected by the drought, the higher sales tax introduced last year and controlled prices which left very little margin. These factors had affected business viability badly and few traders had large resources to carry them through for long.

"Now, due to the curfew, it is doubtful if many businessmen will survive. Provincial trade is kept going mainly by the business generated through the surrounding rural and mining population. Now that has almost totally gone and there is a tremendous drop in trade. By the end of this month the position for most of us will be very serious."

As an example he said that one Gwanda shop which formerly enjoyed a good, steady flow of customers had taken only \$1,30 for a whole day this week.

Telephone calls placed by a reporter to businessmen in other towns in the area this week, including Beitbridge could not be put through due to "faults on the line", long delays or numbers said to be not available.

MAIZE IMPORTS REPORTEDLY APPEAR TO BE INEQUITABLE

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 17 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

THE continuing lack of significant rain in this third drought year is certain now to cost Zimbabwe very dear, and despite urgent efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture to stimulate all possible maize intakes this year it appears that maize imports will be inevitable.

However, these are likely to be yellow maize. South Africa and Zimbabwe are the only countries in the world where white maize is produced and exported in bulk, and the South African crop itself is known to be hard hit by drought with its total crop estimates now down to about 4 million tonnes for this season.

At present estimates, Zimbabwe's maize intake by June this year is likely to be less than 700 000 tonnes — and could be less than that figure. Consumption is calculated to be at least 1,2 million tonnes, annually, leaving a possible shortfall of some 500 000 tonnes of maize until the 1985 intake.

But the cost of importing even yellow maize from South Africa is high. Estimates vary between about \$250 to \$275 a tonne landed in Zimbabwe. So the importation of only 300 000 tonnes would involve at least \$80 million in cash and foreign currency and rationing of supplies would almost certainly have to be imposed.

In addition to these importation costs the newly introduced maize incentive prices offered this week will also increase local costs.

In an effort to encourage early maize deliveries to the Grain Marketing Board the Minister of Agriculture has said that the GMB will pay an additional \$20 per tonne for maize delivered before April 30 and \$15 per tonne for maize deliveries during May, in addition to the existing pre-planting price of \$140 per tonne.

This move, as previously reported in *The Gazette*, was urgently needed to encourage farmers to deliver every possible tonne of dry maize to the GMB as soon as possible, before stocks run out in April.

Unfortunately this necessary incentive payment will also inevitably increase the cost of maize to consumers.

The removal of a large part of the maize subsidies formerly paid by the Government has led to the retail price almost doubling during the last 18 months.

According to economists, another price increase will be necessary this year to finance the basic \$140 per tonne producer price — and this will be increased yet again by the latest incentive prices which have had to be

offered for early deliveries. In addition the huge costs of having to import maize from wherever possible, as seems inevitable, will have a considerable impact, especially if it has to come from America.

Unless some form of food aid to Zimbabwe is forthcoming (and there are other countries in even more desperate straits) the total effect of these added maize costs will be increased inflation, higher food prices and, possibly, some return to a subsidy situation with all its adverse implications for the balance of payments situation.

All these factors do not take into account the huge cost of keeping drought-hit and debt ridden farmers on the land — especially the commercial farmers who produce the bulk of the country's desperately needed maize crop. The re-scheduling of debts in order to refinance all farmers for the next growing season will be a great strain on the country's financial resources.

But at present the emphasis lies on the Government and the key Ministry of Agriculture to import sufficient maize to feed the population through the year ahead.

South Africa's combined white

and yellow maize crop is reported to be well down from its original 6.7 million tonnes to only about 4 million following renewed drought in its major "maize triangle".

It has been reported as affecting all other food crops there and as being no longer a purely agricultural problem but "assuming the proportions of a national disaster". At present South Africa's maize milling requirements are being met on a daily basis as shipments of imported American yellow maize are unloaded, according to the *Financial Mail* of February 10. So imported maize from that country may not be possible.

In the face of all these problems Zimbabwe needs to make every effort to keep our farmers on the land, say local economists. They fear the cost of imported food may cripple the country if continued for long.

Only about 200 000 hectares of maize were planted by commercial farmers this year, as against some 280 000 hectares three years ago — the year when good advance producer prices as well as good rains brought in the record maize crop which until recently has cushioned Zimbabwe against this third year of drought.

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CURRENCY SHORTAGE HOLDS UP WATER SUPPLY PIPING FOR BULAWAYO

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 11 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

URGENTLY needed imported high-pressure steel piping essential to provide Bulawayo with extra reticulated water supplies by 1986 has been held up indefinitely due to shortage of currency and lack of decisions by the various ministries involved.

The special 840 mm diameter steel piping was specified in a \$9.6 million contract awarded by the Bulawayo City Council last September to the local Tube and Pipe Industries company, as reported by *The Gazette* at the time.

The contract involved building a 48 km duplicate mains water pipeline needed to bring water into the city under high pressure from the city's Ncema waterworks. It was planned for completion by 1986, by which time it is estimated that existing reticulated water supplies will be unable to cater for the demands.

When the contract was advertised in April last year it included, with ministerial agreement, a provision that foreign currency would be available for the steel piping required under a French Commodity Import programme. West Germany was also said to be involved in this commodity aid programme.

But later the ministry concerned said that it could not be provided under the programmes.

In view of the large contract involved, a representative of one of the tendering companies visited France and Germany in June last year to investigate the mechanics of the aid involved for the steel imports.

But he was told by officials in both countries that neither was willing to finance this project.

When he returned to Zimbabwe he found that all tenderers for the project had been asked to send details of the imported materials needed to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. This he did.

But then all tenderers were told to seek foreign exchange for the raw materials needed through the British Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD), on "indications" that the Bulawayo project had the full support of the Ministries of Local Government and Town Planning, and of Economic Planning and Development.

So the energetic representative of Pipe and Tube Industries promptly visited Britain to negotiate steel supplies on a package basis from suppliers there.

His company then tendered for the Bulawayo contract on that basis and was finally awarded the \$9.5 million project by the Bulawayo City Council last September.

His company contacted the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development regarding the foreign exchange necessary, only to be told to apply to Trade and Commerce officials.

A certain Trade and Commerce official said in September that as the contract had been awarded to a local company, the foreign exchange allocation had to be made by the Ministry of Industry and Energy Development. As there was then said to be a "substantial"

amount of German aid available, the company was asked to apply immediately to an official of that ministry.

So the company representative sought alternative quotes from Germany and then duly applied for foreign currency through the Ministry of Industry and Energy Development — only to be told again to apply through Industrial Import Control.

RE-APPLIED

After updating suppliers' quotes to suit cheapest materials available from West Germany and Britain, the company representative accordingly re-applied to Import Control in November.

But on December 21, Import Control said that the Bulawayo Municipality had to apply direct to the original official in the Ministry of Trade and Commerce with whom it had previously dealt in September.

A copy of a letter explaining the long delay in starting the pipeline contract was sent to various Government and municipal officials by the company last month.

In this letter the company representative told the Bulawayo City Engineer:

"Having gone through the full

circle and ended up with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce official again, one wonders what to do.

"Having been told over and over again that not the municipality, but the successful tenderer (which makes sense) had to apply, I feel that one committee is just passing responsibility to the other but no one is capable of making a decision.

"Please let me know what to do next."

Discussing this situation recently at a meeting of the Engineering Services Committee, the city engineer recalled that the construction of another previous pipeline to Lake Cunningham had "been held up for 21 months due to Ministerial control difficulties". He said that it would appear that the same thing was again occurring.

The council noted these continuing problems over the construction of the essential pipeline during its meeting last week. There is still no news of when the much-delayed contract can begin as the necessary imported steel is not available.

But it appears unlikely that Bulawayo city will be able to gain its additional water supply by the target date of 1986.

CSO: 3400/689

MUCH TIGHTER WATER RATIONING ON WAY FOR HARARE RESIDENTS

Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 17 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

MUCH tighter water rationing is on the way for all residents throughout Greater Harare — and this time it is certain to affect commerce and industry.

It is known that the continued drought has posed a crisis situation, as the declining level of the city's water supplies will have to serve the population for the next nine months.

These water supplies are now down to only 30% of their capacity, and water experts said this week that whatever showers may fall during the next month will make little, if any difference to the level.

If these dwindling water reserves are to last until the next significant rains in about December, the present daily consumption of about 170 000 megalitres a day must be cut down considerably. Several reliable sources believe that the Harare City Council will soon have to cut the present water rations by as much as 25%.

Hydrologists said this week that the water level at Lake McIlwaine is certain to fall below the main inlet towers at the waterworks by January next year, even if the city's consumption is reduced, unless there is a considerable inflow of rain before then.

The situation is considered so serious that a scheme to bring water from Darwendale's Lake

Robertson into the waterworks at Lake McIlwaine may have to be implemented on an emergency basis. It is understood that some councillors have already considered such a scheme, but the amount of foreign currency needed to import special pumps needed to bring the water from Darwendale to Harare was unlikely to be available.

It is also believed that in order to encourage reduced water consumption, the present minimum water charge of \$3.60 imposed on all residents of the low-density areas may be lowered to bring it into line with the \$2.65 minimum charge paid by high-density area consumers.

This would act as an incentive for people living in the low-density suburbs to save as much water as possible and so incur lower charges.

But at present it appears as though residents in these low-density areas are reducing their consumption considerably, while many people living in high-density areas are still over-running their water ration by considerable amounts.

Large number of those consumers are likely to be faced with extremely high water bills during the next week or two, when accounts will be sent out from the municipality embodying the surcharges in-

curred for exceeding the allotted water ration.

It is known that on some properties in the high-density areas large numbers of people — including squatters — are living on one plot or stand. The occupants of the property who are allowing friends and relatives to live on these will certainly be faced with very high water accounts.

The rationing of water to the commercial and industrial sectors around the city, who have so far not been affected, is likely to be imposed in one form or another.

According to various spokesmen, the unpleasant fact must now be faced that Harare simply does not have enough water in its storage facilities to last much beyond the next nine months.

Unfortunately, water restrictions in these sectors could affect production, economic viability and employment. Some industries depend on large quantities of water which are essential in processing items ranging from foodstuffs to fabrics.

Plant nurseries and garden shops are already being affected by a considerable drop in business following water rationing.

Hotels, among other commercial water-users, could also be affected by the new and tighter water rationing system certain to come into force in two or three weeks time in Harare.

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ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

CURFEW AREAS FOOD SUPPLY--The army and the police are allowing food supplies into curfew areas in Matabeleland South and people there are not likely to starve, says the Minister of State (Political Affairs and Provincial Development Co-ordination), Cde Maurice Nyagumbo. The minister, who is also Zanu (PF) national organising secretary, is on a tour of the province to assess political developments and the security situation. He told Ziana yesterday: "Progress is being made to achieve the needed peace in Matabeleland South. The army and police are allowing supplies of food into the area at intervals," Cde Nyagumbo said. "I was briefed on this and I am confident that people will not starve," he said. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Feb 84 p 3]

MEASURES TO MINIMIZE DROUGHT--The Government is taking measures to minimise the effects of Zimbabwe's third drought in a row, the Minister of Agriculture, Senator Denis Norman, assured the nation yesterday. He told heads of news media during a briefing in Harare that the drought would affect not only maize, which is Zimbabwe's staple food. The Government was aware that the shortage of water would also affect irrigation schemes and later industrial and domestic water supplies. As a result, a decrease was expected in winter wheat unless it rained again in the near future. The cattle situation was causing concern, and generally this season would leave farmers in a "fairly battered" state. The Government, the minister said, realised the potential damage and was now considering proposals and solutions to ensure that Zimbabweans went into the 1984/85 season geared to succeed. In its steps to reduce the effects of the drought, the State was receiving the co-operation of all those involved in the farming industry, he said. The minister emphasised that his confidence in the country and its agricultural potential had not diminished a bit. Given a good rainy season, Zimbabweans would begin to repair the damage done to their economy by the drought. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Feb 84 p 5]

ADB LOAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED--The African Development Bank has granted Zimbabwe seven loans worth \$52,38 million for five projects following its Zimcord pledge in 1981, ADB president Mr Willa Mung'omba said yesterday. The money, which was used for rural health projects, water supply schemes, resettlement, telecommunications and development banking, represented 97 percent of the ADB's \$54 million pledge at the Zimcord conference. Mr Mung'omba was speaking after signing a \$7 million loan with the Minister of

Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Cde Bernard Chidzero, for the purchase of telecommunications equipment for the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. The loan, which was offered at an interest rate of 9,5 percent, would be repaid in 15 years after a grace of five years. The money would be used to buy underground cables, overhead wires, switching and subscriber apparatus and test equipment as part of the PTC's \$200 million capital development programme. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Feb 84 p 1]

MALNUTRITION IN GWANDA DISTRICT--Gwanda--Gwanda district has about 6 700 children with moderate to severe symptoms of malnutrition, and the situation could in fact be worse. Saying this figure indicated only those children reported and examined at the health and nutrition centres, the Gwanda district nutrition co-ordinator, Cde Kiwa Sibanda, warned that there could be more such children and that the situation was likely to become worse if drought conditions persisted. Those children known to be malnourished were receiving additional nutritious food under the Ministry of Health's children's supplementary feeding programme, Cde Sibanda said this week. Up to June last year there were only 3 432 children on the feeding programme in the district but the figure had since doubled, said Cde Sibanda, adding that this was largely due to the drought. He added that many families in the district had little or no food since they had not planned on successive drought seasons and many of the cattle which they used to sell or slaughter for food had died in the dry conditions. "The situation is likely to be worse this year since another drought is almost a certainty," said Cde Sibanda. He also said that the supplementary feeding programme was facing problems of shortages of staff and transport. [Excerpt] [Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Feb 84 p 3]

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27 March 1984